Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Joint Statement Issued After 'Arafat-Rabin Talks

TA0707170394 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1145 GMT 7 Jul 94

["Joint Palestinian-Israeli statement" issued by Uri Palti, Foreign Ministry spokesman,in Jerusalem on 7 July]

[Text] On the occasion of their visit to Paris, during which Chairman 'Arafat, Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres were awarded the Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize, Israeli and Palestinian delegations met and agreed on the following:

1. The Israeli and Palestinian delegations express their satisfaction with the ongoing implementation of the first stage of the DOP [Declaration of Principles].

2. The two delegations agree that negotiations concerning the second stage of the DOP will commence in Cairo next week, on Monday July 11.

3. This next stage will be carried out through the convening of two joint working groups.

4. The first working group shall deal with all outstanding issues in the Cairo Agreement of May 4, 1994 (such as the negotiations concerning the release of additional prisoners pursuant to Article 20 of the Cairo Agreement, and the temporary international presence pursuant to Article 21 of the agreement).

5. The second working group shall deal with early empowerment in the rest of the West Bank, related financial matters and elections.

6. The two delegations have agreed to contact the Governments of Egypt and Jordan regarding their participation at a high level in the continuing committee to be established pursuant to Article 16 of the Cairo Agreement.

7. The Palestinian delegation has asked that Israel consider the release of imprisoned women and special cases. The Israeli delegation has responded that it shall consider this request seriously.

8. The chairman of the PLO has stated that he intends to convene the PNC [Palestine National Council] in Gaza in the very near future in order to, inter alia, submit for formal approval the necessary changes in regard to the Palestinian Covenant as undertaken in his letter dated May 4, 1994 addressed to the prime minister of Israel.

'Arafat Says Paris Meeting 'Fruitful'

BR0807094394 Paris LIBERATION in French 7 Jul 94 p 13

[Report by Christophe Boltanski: "Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations: Act II Opens in Paris"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, and Yasir Arafat met in Paris yesterday for the first time since the Cairo agreement and received the Houphouet-Boigny Prize. It was an occasion to launch the second phase of the peace negotiations.

Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin shook hands to applause of the public. The former enthusiastically, the latter with a certain stiffness. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres observed the scene, slightly to the rear. Gathered together in UNESCO's great amphitheater, they repeated a gesture which has virtually become a habit. However, the three men have rarely appeared so relaxed, so confident in the future, so eager to show consideration for their negotiating partner.

They had not met since the dramatic signing of the autonomy agreements in Cairo on 4 May. But, in the meantime, it must be said, their fragile diplomatic agreements have seen nothing but success. The Israeli army has finished its retreat from the Gaza Strip and Jericho in calm, the intifada has virtually stopped, and 'Arafat has returned to his land without encountering the slightest obstacle.

The three leaders came especially to Paris to receive the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Prize. The only irony of the day was that the man who presented the Palestinian leader with the golden medal and diploma of peace awarded by the international organization was none other than Henry Kissenger, one of the fiercest opponents of the PLO when he was in charge of U.S. diplomacy.

The main event took place a little earlier, in a room of the international conference center on Avenue Kleber. At the end of long talks behind closed doors, 'Arafat, Rabin, and Peres signalled the start of the second phase of the peace negotiations. The PLO leader said that "the meeting had been fruitful," adding that he had met with a considerable response from the other participants. After Gaza and Jericho, Israelis and Palestinians are determined to move forward. They differ only over the pace.

"We are in a hurry, but we will go slowly," the Israeli prime minister repeated several times in the UNESCO amphitheater. "Each party must carefully measure its steps, with foresight, with circumspection, because a century of hostility cannot evaporate just by the magic of a handshake in Washington." As for the PLO leader, he wanted to proceed "as soon as possible to the question of the definitive status, in particular with regard to Jerusalem, the refugees, the colonies, and frontiers."

The two parties agreed to translate the agreements into facts as soon as possible. "Peace will be built in daily life, in little gestures, in insignificant details," Rabin explained. "It will be translated by the applause of Israeli audiences for Palestinian theater troupes (...), it will be there when an Israeli driver gives priority to his Palestinian counterpart."

'Arafat avoided a head-on clash with the Israeli leaders. He only mentioned the question of Jerusalem briefly. "We were cousins, sons of Abraham, we must become friends, neighbors," he said to an audience of important public figures. Several times he repeated his "commitment to the peace agreements." He would respect his word "no matter what the obstacles, the hindrances, the difficulties, and the suffering."

The initiative covers three main areas. A first committee will examine the points left unresolved in Cairo, particularly the fate of prisoners and the boundaries of the Jericho area. Two months ago 'Arafat refused, before the cameras of the entire world, to ratify the division proposed to him. The Palestinian leader has also asked for the release of Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. Such a measure would singularly strengthen his position among Islamic fundamentalist sympathizers. But Rabin has set as a condition that Yasin must first renounce violence in writing.

A second committee will examine the refugees from 1967. According to the initial agreement adopted in Washington on 13 September [1993], this question should be dealt with in four-party negotiations involving Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, and Egypt.

Finally a third committee will discuss the extension of autonomy to the rest of the West Bank. Israeli troops must evacuate the Palestinian cities between now and the general elections planned for the end of the year.

Without waiting for this deadline, 'Arafat invited Francois Mitterrand yesterday evening to visit "Gaza and Jericho, the first step to Palestine as a whole" following a meeting in the Elysee [presidential] palace.

Minister Denies Jordanian-Israeli Officers Meeting

JN0707160194 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 7-8 Jul 94 p 1

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has denied the reports yesterday that Jordanian and Israeli officers met the day before yesterday to prepare for the resumption of negotiations, due to take place on 18 July.

In a statement to AKHIR KHABAR al-'Anani said: I have no information about this meeting. He added that the officers have no connection with the borders issue, which will be discussed by the Jordanian delegation led by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, and the Israeli delegation led by Elyaqim Rubinstein.

The reports said the Jordanian and Israeli sides concluded preparations for the negotiations and for a ceremony which is expected to be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Following the ceremony, the delegations will move to the site of negotiations, on which Jordan made a sudden change by moving it to the Dead Sea and Wadi al-'Arabah. The negotiations had been scheduled to be held alternately in Elat and al-'Aqabah.

Tourism Ministers Bar'am, Frayj Meet on Cooperation

TA0707171194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in English 1515 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Report by Nicole Strauss]

[Text] [Strauss] Today, [Israeli] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am and his Palestinian counterpart, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, met for the first time since the Palestinian Authority was sworn in July the 5th.

[Bar'am] We are now on the threshold of a new era of development that will need a lot of courage and vision. Thank you for being with us.

[Strauss] Nearly 2 million tourists visited Israel last year, 60 percent of them Christian. Bethlehem alone was visited by 1 million visitors, some of whom are critical. Under the Cairo agreement, several religious and historical sites have come under Palestinian rule. If autonomy expands, future cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians will be crucial for tourism. Talks have already been held between Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan to discuss the development of the north shore of the Dead Sea.

[Frayj] We have to build, all together jointly, a regional tourism to include Egypt, Israel, Palestine [as heard], Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. And that will bring millions of tourists.

[Strauss] Other ventures include a shared advertising campaign and joint training for tour guides, all in the hope of attracting nearly 6 million tourists by the year 2000. Today's meeting about the future of tourism is a way for Israelis and Palestinians to promote the best of both worlds.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Talks With Rabin, 'Frequency' Issue

JN0707153894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Faridah al-Shubashi in Paris on 7 July—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, you described your talks with Rabin and Peres yesterday as positive. Does this also apply to the talks you held later last night?

['Arafat] Yes, we resumed these talks either in the presence of all members of delegations or at the bilateral committees level. These talks continued until 0300 today. We agreed on important issues. The most important issue is the beginning of the second chapter of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles we

signed in Washington and Cairo, including the international presence, elections, the early transfer of powers, and prisoners, including the prisoners with complicated health problems. This is in addition to other issues. We can say that the atmosphere in general is positive. We hope we will continue on this path.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, have you agreed to hold another meeting in Cairo on Monday [11 July]?

['Arafat] Yes, today there will be an announcement that the committees will meet in Cairo as usual. We agreed on the importance of holding contacts with the brothers in Egypt and Jordan to convene an urgent meeting of the quadripartite Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli Committee to discuss the issue of the displaced people. We should begin discussion of this issue as soon as possible.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, in your interview with French television yesterday, you spoke about President Francois Mitterrand's acceptance of your request to extend aid to the new Palestinian authority.

['Arafat] The truth is that every time I contacted his excellency he was positive with me on all issues, whether regarding this issue or any other issue. He is a man who enjoys political and historical farsightedness. As well as being the president of the French Republic, he is also a world figure. I thanked him on behalf of the Palestinian people for his concern for the Palestinian people and their problems. I also invited him to visit us in Palestine. He accepted the invitation and asked me to set an appropriate date.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, in your speeches yesterday, it was noted that you spoke about a rapid transfer of powers to the Palestinians, and about the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It was also noted that in his speech Rabin called for a slow implementation to guarantee peace. How....

['Arafat, interrupting] What has been implemented over the past two months proves that there is a good Palestinian commitment and a good Israeli commitment, and that there is a good level of Palestinian-Israeli harmony. It also shows implementation on the ground that is clear and tangible to the whole world. The hundreds of thousands of people who took to the streets to receive me did not receive me only because I am Yasir 'Arafat. This was an expression of their satisfaction with my political line. This was a message to the world expressing their approval of peace, and their commitment to this line, which is the path of peace.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, following this reception which was witnessed by the whole world, have you felt the impact of this reception on the Israeli side regarding the negotiations?

['Arafat] I cannot answer this question.

[Al-Shubashi] During the negotiations?

['Arafat] I cannot answer this question.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. president, Radio Monte Carlo has always followed Arab events, particularly the developments in the Palestine question. How do you assess the radio's role in this field?

['Arafat] In fact, I appreciate this distinguished and special interest by your radio as a friendly radio which takes care of the small, big, and important issues of our people in the homeland and the diaspora.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, you also said in your speech yesterday that you departed Egypt for Palestine, and that France was the first country you visited after you left Palestine. Is it not symbolic that the French television and Radio Monte Carlo will contribute to establishing the Palestinian radio and television stations?

['Arafat] Yes, but this issue of frequency [preceding word in English] still causes us some problems because we did not get from the Israeli side the accurate and right frequency which will enable us to do this work. We hope that this meeting will have solved this problem.

[Al-Shubashi] Thank you Mr. President.

'Arafat To Return to Self-Rule Areas After Send-Off

NC0707165394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 7 Jul (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will return for good to the Palestinian self-rule areas after spending a few days in Tunis. 'Arafat, who will arrive in Tunis later today, will be accorded an official farewell ceremony when he leaves Tunis.

The same sources added that most of the PLO departments will move to the self-rule areas by the end of July. This follows Israel's approval of the lists of names of civilian cadres and employees who will move to Gaza and Jericho to help build the Palestinian administration. The sources expect a number of Palestinian media officials to leave for Gaza and Jericho in mid-July. Offices form the PLO Political Department and the Pan-Arab Relations Department will be opened in Amman, while the headquarters will remain in Tunis.

The same sources stressed that the fact that the international aid promised to the PLO by the donor states and the World Bank is still frozen is the main obstacle preventing the return of the PLO cadres and departments to Gaza and Jericho.

Sources Reveal Details of Rabin-'Arafat Agreement

NC0807111194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1054 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 8 Jul (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources have revealed some of the details of an agreement recently concluded in Paris by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It tackles three autonomy issues.

The sources said the agreement includes Israel's approval of the early transfer of civilian powers in the West Bank to the Palestinian National Authority, noting that this will be done before October 1994, allowing Jerusalem residents to participate in legislative and municipal elections, and ending the ban on Palestinians entering Jerusalem.

The sources added that 'Arafat obtained a promise from Rabin to expand Jericho's boundaries and station a Palestinian policeman on the border with Jordan in line with the Oslo and Cairo Agreements.

The sources reported that Rabin committed himself to implementing the agreements on the release of all Palestinian detainees including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

The sources said that two conflicting currents exist within the PLO now, one calling for keeping the PLO leadership in Tunis until Palestinian jurisdiction is extended to the entire West Bank, which is seen as a practical suggestion with social implications that can solve the problems of 80 percent of the returning Palestinians. The other opinion calls for immediate return and participation in reconstruction and economic development whether or not the circumstances are right for these activities.

Authority's Economy Official on Results of U.S. Talks

PM0707143094 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Jul 94 p 4

[Report by Fathi al-Barqawi: "In Exclusive Statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI After His Visit to Washington, Abu-'Ala' Says: World Bank Pledged To Cover Deficit in Palestinian Budget Soon"]

[Excerpts] Tunis, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—A high-ranking Palestinian official has stressed that the National Authority Council is entitled to exempt PLO employees returning to the homeland from paying customs duties on domestic furniture, cars, and all equipment for PLO offices—which is of interest to over 10,000 Palestinians.

Ahmad Quray', the Authority Council member in charge of economic affairs and member of the Fatah Central Committee, added in a statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the council is entitled to do so under the agreement concluded with Israel. He pointed out that the Palestinians were supposed to begin collecting taxes as of 4 May, but this has been postponed until the formation of a body capable of carrying out this mission. He expects the revenues to reach $31 million in three months.

Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] spoke about his recent visit to the U.S. capital Washington, where he held meetings with U.S. administration officials and World Bank officials. Abu-'Ala', who is secretary of the committee managing the aid granted to the Palestinians by the donor countries, said that the visit came in the wake of what he termed confusion over the nature of the relationship between the donor countries and the Palestinian National Authority. [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ala' specified six [as published] topics which were raised at the talks held in Washington:

1. Covering the deficit in the authority's budget for the next months, whether the deficit in security or administrative expenditures.

2. The repatriation budget...as it was stressed that a budget should be provided for the next three months.

3. To work jointly to secure a budget for another three months until the end of the year.

4. To put a plan for investment in the infrastructure into effect immediately and to begin implementation within the framework of expanding these sectors in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

5. To put the technical aid program into effect.

6. The IMF is to assist in drawing up a system for the Palestinian monetary authority and training cadres in the sphere of taxes, customs, and fiscal policy.

7. To develop and organize bilateral relations and lay foundations for them, whether with the World Bank or the U.S. administration. [passage omitted]

Hamas Issues Statement on Resistance Activities

JN0707205694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, yesterday issued a statement announcing the following activities:

1. On 9 July, a general strike will be staged on the occasion of the beginning of the 80th month of the intifadah.

2. On 13 July, there will be a distinguished escalation against the enemy and settlements on the occasion of the monthly recall of the ill-omened Oslo agreement.

3. 17 July will be considered a day of solidarity with detainees and prisoners and demanding their total release without humiliating conditions or discrimination.

4. On 22 July, worshipers will head from all parts of Palestine to perform prayers at the al-Aqsa Mosque as an expression of our people's adherence to Jerusalem and condemnation of the Zionist measures to Judaize and isolate it. They will also demand that the city not be relinquished.

5. On 23-27 July, popular activities will be carried out against the enemy, settlers, and vehicles.

6. On 29 and 30 July, nationalist graffiti will be inscribed and Palestinian flags hoisted.

Hamas Warns Authorities Not To Disarm Fighters

JN0707194094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, today announced that armed resistance continues against the Israeli occupation. Hamas warned the Palestinian authorities in the self-rule areas against the consequences of attempting to disarm its fighters.

In a statement distributed in the self-rule areas and the occupied territories, Hamas said it thus replies to those weakhearted people who began saying in Palestinian circles that Hamas has suspended its military activities in preparation for participation in the bad agreements [words indistinct] Gaza- Jericho.

Shots Fired at Soldiers in Gaza; 2 Arabs Killed

TA0807050194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Israeli soldiers were fired upon in two incidents in the Gaza Strip last night in which no one was hurt. One of the incidents took place at the Army post along the Gaza Strip security fence. Border Police say they were pelted with stones when they entered the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp along with Palestinian police to search for the assailants. In another attack, shots were fired at the joint Palestinian-Israeli command in the Khan Yunus area.

Two Arabs in the territories were killed, apparently suspected by Palestinians of cooperating with Israel. The body of Mahmud Hasin, aged 42, was found in Tulkarm after he was kidnapped by masked assailants. Near Bethlehem. The body was found of Khalid Sa'id, after he, too, was murdered by masked Palestinians.

WAFA Official on Agency Move to Autonomous Areas

JN0807091394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Interview with Muhammad al-Sharafi, chief of the Gaza bureau of the Palestine News Agency, WAFA, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] The Palestinian radio has already started its transmission. When will the Palestine News Agency begin work in the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Sharafi] I arrived on Tuesday, three days ago. I was preceded to Gaza by some reporters, administrators, and photographers. We are now preparing the Gaza regional center. The main center will be in Jericho. God willing, we will begin issuing a preliminary bulletin next Monday [11 July].

[Mu'addi] Will the agency's center remain in Tunis or will it be transferred to the autonomous areas?

[Al-Sharafi] It will definitely be transferred to the autonomous areas.

[Mu'addi] Will the agency have branches in other parts of the West Bank?

[Al-Sharafi] As it was the case in the past, the agency will have branches or correspondents in all parts where there is a possibility of Palestinian events. They will provide us with news of all events there.

[Mu'addi] What about the agency's work in terms of correspondents and sources of information?

[Al-Sharafi] As you are aware, WAFA has been the official PLO mouthpiece. Now it will be the official mouthpiece of the Palestinian National Authority. The correspondents who are outside the autonomous areas, that is in the Arab and European countries, will be accredited. There will be other correspondents in the cities of the autonomous areas.

[Mu'addi] Will there be coordination between the Palestinian radio and television and the Palestine News Agency?

[Al-Sharafi] Certainly. These three bodies are sort of integrated. WAFA news items will be carried on radio and television.

[Mu'addi] Based on your experience in Tunis, do you expect problems or difficulties in the agency's work here in the autonomous areas?

[Al-Sharafi] We expect some problems, but I hope they will be overcome. I believe that we are exerting great efforts to overcome these obstacles, especially the use of advanced technical equipment, having reached a cooperation agreement with the Italian news agency, ANSA, to supply us with some advanced technical equipment.

[Mu'addi] Thank you, Mr. Muhammad al-Sharafi, director of WAFA. We wish you success.

[Al-Sharafi] Thank you very much.

Imam Congratulates 'Arafat on Return to 'Palestine'

NC0707170494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 7 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has received a congratulatory message from al-Azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq on the occasion of 'Arafat's return to the land of Palestine.

In his message, the al-Azhar imam hoped that this good step will be followed by further steps toward the liberation of the land of Palestine and that the Palestinian people will take this step seriously and work for its success and protection. He congratulated the Palestinian people on this occasion and hoped they will close their ranks on their land as part of this blessed process so that all the land may return liberated to the Palestinians to rule by themselves. He also hoped the Palestinians will unify their efforts and position alongside 'Arafat, who has struggled and striven to reach this point.

Algeria

Pro-FIS Officer Reportedly Seizes, Blows Up Aircraft

PM0707114094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jul 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Air Captain Seizes Helicopter, Blows Up Two"]

[Excerpt] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—High-ranking Algerian sources have revealed to AL-HAYAH that an air captain from the Ain Arnat barracks (Setif province) seized a helicopter and blew up two aircraft [ta'iratayn] on the eve of Algeria's 32d independence anniversary celebrations. The helicopter was found dumped in the mountains of Bouira province (east of the capital, Algiers) the day before yesterday.

Reports submitted to the presidency say that this officer is a sympathizer of the disbanded Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], and that he seized the aircraft and headed for the mountains when he ascertained that President Liamine Zeroual had not released FIS leaders on the independence anniversary.

Reliable Algerian sources have said that Zeroual held an urgent meeting with Army commanders at the Defense Ministry immediately after hearing of the incident, and ordered the launch of an investigation. [passage omitted]

Government Pledges To Find Italian Sailors' Murderers

NC0707175894 Paris AFP in English 1708 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Algiers, July 7 (AFP)—Seven Italian sailors were found with their throats cut in an Algerian port on Thursday [7 July], sparking condemnation from Italy and a pledge from the Algerian prime minister to track down the suspected Islamic militant killers.

The Algerian Government "will do all it can to hunt down" the assassins of the sailors, said Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi in a message of condolence addressed to his Italian counterpart Silvio Berlusconi.

The Algerian Interior Ministry said the sailors were killed overnight Wednesday in an attack on their grain carrier, the Lucina, docked in the Algerian port of Djendjen, an Islamic stronghold in eastern Algeria.

"The Algerian Government condemns this criminal act which sows death and destruction and renews its commitment to work wholeheartedly for the eradication of terrorism," Sifi's message said.

A Djendjen port official found one sailor on the bridge and the other six in their cabins all with their throats cut. Reports came from unofficial sources here who said assailants either swam or used a small craft to board the ship and slit their victims' throats.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino said in Rome: "We condemn terrorism in all forms, and this seems to have been a particularly violent and horrible terrorist act."

Normally the Lucina is manned by nine men but two had left the boat in Cagliari to go on holiday. Five of the seven victims were from Naples.

Asked about a possible connection with the G7 summit of leading industrialised countries opening in Naples on Friday, Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman Maurizio Moreno said, "we shouldn't jump to hasty conclusions," as the government did not have any such indications.

The boat left the Sardinian port of Cagliari on June 10 and arrived in Algeria on June 11 where it was given authorisation to unload and was due to finish early Thursday.

Islamic fundamentalists last year warned expatriate workers to leave Algeria and are blamed for killing more than 40 foreigners in the country since last September. [passage omitted]

Ministry Announces 'Immediate' Bread Price Hikes

LD0707204794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The General Directorate for Competition and Prices at the Ministry of Trade has announced that the official price of ordinary bread will rise from 2.50 Algerian dinars to 3 dinars; and for a 250 gram loaf and a high quality loaf the price will rise from 3 dinars to 4 dinars.

The source did not confirm the date for the price rises raises, which means they will be effective immediately.

The ministry also pointed out that the new prices will meet bread manufacturing costs and will allow bakery owners to increase the salaries of their workers who have yet to win their long-sought legitimate rights because of the narrow margin of profits in making and selling bread.

Further on Bread Price Hikes

LD0807082994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] The Ministry of Trade has announced that the legal price of ordinary bread will rise from 2.5 dinars to 3 dinars and the high quality bread to 4 dinars. The same source did not specify the date of the application of the new prices, which means that they will be applied immediately.

The ministry explained that this change will cover the rise in the production cost at the bakeries by improving the conditions of their workers.

The Directorate of Competition and Prices has called on bakery owners to fully respect the quality standards of the high quality bread as well as the holidays' schedule to avoid fluctuation in the supply of bread. It threatened to take severe measures against bakeries that do not respect those standards or the holiday schedules.

Egypt

Musa Discusses Iraq Embargo, Libyan-Western Crisis

NC0707181194 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 14

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Thurayya 'Asi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Asi] We would like to ask about an old-new subject: the embargo against Iraq. What is the latest, and what can Egypt do in this regard?

[Musa] There is nothing new on this subject. We have already announced that the true beginning for any move is the official [Iraqi] recognition of Kuwait. Such recognition would put things back on track and take us all to the starting point from which we can address all the repercussions of the crisis that resulted from them denying Kuwait's existence.

This is the beginning, and we hope it will happen soon. This is the reality. Kuwait is not the 19th Iraqi governorate, and no one will recognize it as such. On the other hand, the Iraqi people cannot continue to live in successive crises because of the failure to remove this obstacle. Of course, we are all interested in seeing Iraq and its people return to the Arab fold and regain their important status. We cannot accept the continued current fragmentation in Iraq because the existing situation constitutes a threat. For how long will this continue? Iraq's unity must be maintained, but Kuwait existence must also be recognized.

['Asi] What is the news in your efforts to solve the Libyan-Western crisis? Is there any hope the problem will be solved soon?

[Musa] We believe that things should not be escalated. On the contrary, we must start to back off to ease the tension and solve the problem. Concerning the Libyan position, we have seen two important developments: First, Libya's clear condemnation of terrorism and its severance of all links with terrorist organizations or groups suspected of practicing terrorism. This is an advanced position, and there is proof of it in Libyan documents.

Second, Libya is prepared to accept the trial, but in a neutral country. So, Libya now agrees to the trial of the two suspects. This advanced Libyan position on both fronts must have peaceful consequences whereby the escalation is stopped and an understanding about the trial is reached. What matters is that the two suspects be tried, not where the trial is held; and Libya accepts this.

['Asi] How far have you gone in convincing the West of this logic?

[Musa] We are still trying, and others are also working on this. [passage omitted]

Joint Committee With Syria Ends Final Session

NC0707121194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—The Higher Joint Egyptian-Syrian Committee held a final session at the Prime Ministry this morning. It was chaired by the Prime Ministers Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Before the expanded meeting, the Egyptian and Syrian prime ministers held a meeting, which was attended by delegation members.

After their bilateral meeting, the two prime ministers joined members of the two official delegations at the committee's talks in the Prime Ministry's conference hall. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; the ministers of economy and irrigation; the minister of state for foreign affairs; the ministers of supply, tourism, and oil; the minister of state for planning affairs; and the ministers of communications and transport.

Attending on the Egyptian side were Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; the ministers of transport, communications, and electricity; the minister of state for cabinet affairs; the ministers of petroleum, international cooperation, tourism, economy, health, and industry; and the governor of the Central Bank. The Egyptian and Syrian ambassadors also attended.

At the end of the committee's final session, Dr.'Atif Sidqi and Engineer al-Zu'bi signed the minutes of meetings of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Syrian Committee's seventh session.

Tourism Minister Dr. Mamduh al-Biltaji and his Syrian counterpart Muhammad Amin signed a protocol covering bilateral tourism cooperation.

Sidqi, al-Zu'bi Comment

NC0707153094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said at the conclusion of the seventh session of the higher joint Egyptian-Syrian committee today that this and the previous sessions greatly succeeded in boosting fruitful and constructive cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the areas of economy, commerce, production, and services. He said bilateral relations had made major strides toward coordination and integration for the good of the two peoples. He said the committee will hold its next session in Damascus in January.

Dr. Sidqi expressed high hopes that the Middle East peace process will continue, that Israel will withdraw from the Golan, and that the ambitions of the fraternal Syrian people for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace serving all nations of the region will be achieved.

For his part, Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi stressed that the Syrian leadership supports the work of the joint committee, with a view to achieving integration between the two countries in all fields. He said the accomplishments in the field of bilateral cooperation are now part of the life of the Egyptian and Syrian peoples. Al-Zu'bi said that Syria is eager to support peace based on right and justice and the restoration of Arab rights.

Committee Issues Recommendations

NC0707185494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA)—In the minutes of its meetings which were concluded today, the Joint Higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee calls for holding an early meeting of the joint trade committee to promote and develop trade relations. It also affirmed the importance of cooperation and exchanges of expertise between the Egyptian and Syrian central banks.

The committee called for carrying out a study of market conditions in Egypt and Syria with the aim of increasing trade, especially of electrical and electronic products and capital goods. It calls for establishing joint projects in these fields and for studying the two countries' needs for steam boilers of various sizes. It also called for joint studies in the fields of wind power and the rational use of energy.

The committee called for completing the procedures for signing the contract on the formation of the Syrian-Egyptian Committee for Petroleum Services and for preparing a protocol on training and exchanges of expertise in the field of petroleum.

The committee noted the need to complete the studies on the formation of a joint committee for producing seeds and to implement bilateral research in irrigation systems, especially for the cotton crop.

The committee decided to hold a seminar in Damascus in September on unconventional water resources and on the need to exchange expertise in water drainage, land reclamation, and fighting water pollution. It called for the formation of joint water research groups.

The committee decided to speed up the linking of the electricity grids of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey and to cooperate in the local manufacture of electrical products and coordinate in the field of solar energy.

The committee decided to continue the work to replace foreign expertise with Arab expertise and to exchange consultancy expertise for new projects. It called for holding a seminar in Damascus on the activity of Egyptian consultancy and engineering firms and for preparing joint research plans in the field of industry. It also called for exchanges of visits by industry men and industrial seminars on the sidelines of Damascus International fair and Cairo International Fair.

The committee decided to prepare a protocol on cooperation in the fields of development and construction and the production of constructions materials. It decided to speed up the formation of a joint work team to implement potable water and sewage disposal projects in Syria. It called for speeding up the formation of an Egyptian-Syrian maritime company and for opening a regular maritime line for passengers and goods between Alexandria and Latakia.

The committee referred to the need to follow-up on the construction of a sea cable between Alexandria and Tartus and to continue the efforts to improve telecommunications between the two countries.

The committee called for rapidly instituting cooperation in the manufacture of medicinal products and for exporting Egyptian medicinal products to Syria in a barter deal worth $12 million. It called for the quick opening of an Egyptian-Syrian bureau on trade information and for linking the two countries' industrial information centers. It called on businessmen to form a joint investment company to manufacture textile chemicals. It also called for training Syrian technicians in Egyptian petroleum production plants.

The committee expressed satisfaction with the level of cooperation and coordination in foreign policy between the two countries. It also expressed satisfaction with cooperation in the field of taxes and customs. It called on the concerned establishments in the two countries to continue their efforts to implement the economic cooperation protocols signed between the two countries.

The committee decided to continue the successful efforts to strengthen media cooperation between the two countries' radios, televisions, and news agencies. It decided to continue to coordinate and cooperate in the field of tourism fairs and conferences, to stimulate tourism between the two countries by offering reduced prices, and to encourage joint investments in the field of tourism.

The committee expressed satisfaction with the existing cooperation in the fields of education, culture, scientific research, social insurance, youth, sports, and awqaf.

Ambassador to Israel Discusses Region's Peace, Economy

NC0307145094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza, 3 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador in Israel Muhammad Basyuni has emphasized that a comprehensive and just peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East without Syria.

In an interview with MENA, he said it is necessary to make progress in the negotiations with Syria so that a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict can be reached.

He affirmed that this [Syrian] track will succeed this year or early next year at the most because the two parties have a genuine desire to achieve peace. He expressed his belief that a declaration of principles between Israel and Syria could be reached by the end of this year.

He hoped that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would succeed in his next tour of the region in bringing the two parties' view closer and he emphasized the importance of the United States' exerting a greater effort to accomplish this. He added that Egypt can play a role in this regard because of its experience and credibility with the two sides.

As regards the Jordanian-Israeli track, the Egyptian ambassador said there is progress now that the two parties have agreed to shift the negotiations from Washington to the region. He added that there is a chance for progress on this track because the problems are not complex.

Basyuni said the Gaza-Jericho accord is a first step toward resolving the Palestinian issue and that some unresolved problems still remain, such as Jericho's area and police on the King Husayn Bridge and at the Rafah crossing.

He noted that the most important factors to make the agreement succeed are the economic aspects and making a change on the ground; in other words, provision of necessary funds from donor nations to create an economic change on the ground so that the Palestinian citizen may feel that this agreement has actually achieved prosperity and economic recovery for him.

He said there is need to find job opportunities for the Palestinians inside the self-rule areas so that the Palestinian economy will not remain dependent on Israel. He stressed the need for a political change, with the Palestinian National Authority replacing the Israeli civilian administration. He noted that the Palestinian citizen must feel a security change, must not see an Israeli soldier in every move he makes, and must not see daily curfews imposed on him as was the case before.

Discussing Egyptian-Israeli relations, he described them as normal and said they make progress whenever progress is made in peace talks on other tracks. He affirmed there is an Egyptian commitment to achieving peace on all tracks.

Commenting on the talk about a Middle Eastern market, he said: Economic development in our region is basically linked with achieving peace on all tracks. He emphasized that there can be no economic cooperation before achieving a comprehensive peace.

He called for expediting the efforts to achieve tangible progress in the peace process on the ground before next June. If no progress is made by that time, he said, the possibility of the current Labor Party government led by Yitzhaq Rabin remaining in power will be limited because it promised to accomplish peace, make changes in the priorities of the state budget, and increase spending on all facilities instead of focusing on arms.

Basyuni noted that progress must be expedited but on the condition that such progress must not made at the expense of principles because we want a fair peace that achieves justice, not peace at any price.

Ambassador Basyuni has visited Gaza and congratulated Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on his return to the homeland.

U.S. Accused of Silence Over Israel's Nuclear Option

NC2906102194 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 9

[Article by Mursi 'Atallah: "When will Nuclear Option Questions Be Applied to Israel?"]

[Text] I think the Arab world can no longer afford the luxury of keeping silent and waiting for the unknown in view of the dreadful danger of the nuclear option that is threatening the security, peace, and stability of the entire area. Israel insists on retaining this nuclear option and refuses to sign the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, which has been signed by the Arab states and all the other states in the area.

It is hard to be reassured of the fairness of peace, which everyone in this area, including Israel, wants, and to ensure its continuation, while Israel alone enjoys the advantage of nuclear weapons and the advantage of international protection, particularly from the United States, for this serious violation. Israel's violations have not disturbed the international community, whereas military concentrations, diplomatic pressure, and threats of comprehensive economic sanctions have been made against North Korea just because it has refused to allow a delegation from the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect its nuclear installations.

President Mubarak's realization of this danger prompted him to launch his famous initiative in 1990 to free the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction. President Mubarak's view remains that peace is not just a signature on a piece of paper. Agreements remain ink on paper unless they embody a true desire for peace.

To put it more clearly, President Mubarak's call to free the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction was a principal part of Egypt's concept of the basis of real peace, which requires a genuine intention to abandon concepts of hegemony and create a healthy atmosphere for building confidence without fear of the unknown.

The Iraqi regime's foolishness in invading Kuwait in August 1990 and the regime's earlier threats to use chemical weapons to burn half of Israel have greatly helped to gain sympathy for Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. But the situation has drastically changed. We can tell the United States that

now, after Iraq's nuclear installations and its chemical and biological weapons have been destroyed and brought under strict and constant international inspection, it is unacceptable for Israel to remain the exception, not only in the area, but also throughout the world.

Unless the Arab nation wakes up from its deep sleep and truly and genuinely rallies around President Mubarak's call to free the Middle East of nuclear weapons, many question marks will remain hanging over the future of the area, the future of peace, and the future of an Arab existence.

The time has come to end such tragicomedies as the Yemeni war, which is exhausting the effort and capacity for joint Arab action, and to unite every effort for the more important goal of establishing genuine peace in the area under the canopy of legitimate guarantees, the most important of which is freeing the area of all weapons of mass destruction.

I am not one of those who advocate incitement against the United States and its biased policy toward Israel concerning the nuclear option, because such methods are no longer useful or suitable in today's world. But I call for a unified Arab stance with political influence to make the United States feel that defending its vital and strategic interests in the area does not require the Israeli nuclear option, but the freeing of the area from all weapons of mass destruction. It is impossible to ensure Israel's sole and continuing possession of such weapons indefinitely.

No one is qualified to undertake the task of pressuring, convincing, and influencing Israel in this regard except the United States. There is no more suitable time to utilize the desired U.S. role regarding this dreadful danger than now, when Washington is assuming a central role in the peace process and is trying to establish its credibility in the area on the basis of being less biased toward Israel and being closer to the principles of international legitimacy.

I think that missing the current chance to link the peace process with the need for Israel to abandon the nuclear option not only represents a real threat to the future of the peace process, but also a dreadful threat to the possibility of maintaining the minimum of joint Arab action on regional and international challenges.

I say, regrettably, that unless the Arabs act quickly to establish a unified Arab position based on President Mubarak's initiative, the talk about Arabism, Arab solidarity, and national security becomes a waste of time and a joke.

We must be guided in our action on this issue in the international arena by two parties' inability to coexist peacefully while one of them possesses the nuclear option. This is not just a faulty equation; it is an impossible one.

Let our question be: Why Iraq and then North Korea? Why not Israel, which possesses much more than the nuclear capabilities of Baghdad and Pyongyang?

Let our chance be the world conference next year on the 25th anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the invitation to sign it again.

U.S. 'Double Standards' on Nuclear Weapons Assailed

NC0107195194 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Jun 94 p 9

[Article by Zakariya Nil: "The World Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Future of the Israeli Arsenal"]

[Excerpts] Isn't it high time that the United States realizes that the policy of double standards it applies in many of its positions can no longer be accepted from a superpower that is leading a uni-polar world singlehandedly? Doesn't it know that the changes in the world, with their sharp turns, dictate that it give up its bias in favor of Israel to regain the trust it is missing precisely because of such unethical stands? Does the U.S. Administration have the moral courage to treat Israel the way it does North Korea as far as non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is concerned?

It is not in defense of North Korea to say that after the crisis between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Korean President Kim Il-song reached its climax, North Korean agreed to freeze the implementation of its nuclear program and to permit the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to continue its inspection of its nuclear facilities. Regardless of how we may judge the stand of either party, the question here is: Would the U.S. Administration pursue the same approach it followed in Korea's case with Israel to reveal its nuclear program and reverse its refusal to let international observers, even if they are American, inspect its nuclear reactors? [passage omitted]

It is now clear that the future of the Middle East will be determined by the outcome of the ongoing talks between Israel and the Arab parties to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. Included in these talks are the multilateral talks on arms control, economic relations, the environment, and water. Such a settlement could lead to a just and comprehensive peace. But since the Arab people look for a just and lasting peace that recognizes the people's inalienable rights, the main obstacle to such a peace is the absence of equal security among the region's countries. This is manifest at the military level by Israel's attempts to preserve and develop its nuclear weapons arsenal so that the forthcoming agreements can be concluded under the shadow of this arsenal, which threatens the very existence of the Arab nation and all the Arab peoples. [passage omitted]

But the question is: Who can change the U.S. policy of double standards so that it can stop protecting Israel's

rebellion at the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, its refusal it join it and, consequently, rejection of an international inspection of its nuclear facilities? Israel now has four nuclear reactors and is in the process of building a fifth one. It will be not more than 25 km from the Egyptian area of al-'Awjah; to be more precise, it will be located in (Shivta), in the Negev Desert, which is a violation of IAEA rules that stipulate that nuclear installations must be built at least 50 km from borders with other countries. The power of the new reactor, which an agreement has been concluded to import from Russia, will be 450 megawatts. The Israeli Government has assigned one of its nuclear energy experts, Amnon Inah [name as transliterated], to supervise the implementation of this project.

The strange thing is that the Western quarters, including the United States, know that the Middle East region, including Israel, could face total destruction should any miscalculation in the Israeli nuclear arsenal occur. However, they remain silent over threats that could destroy all their interests in a region that constitutes a vast market for their products. Not a voice was raised to ask: Why was North Korean warned to suspend its nuclear program and Israel was not? Is it because some Western nations, such as France, the United States, Germany, and Britain have contributed to building the Israeli nuclear reactors? Nevertheless, these same people who have contributed financial aid, expertise, and equipment to building these reactors are banned from visiting and inspecting them, and the ban applies to the United States itself!

Israel has four nuclear reactors. One of them, "Robin," is used in producing radioactive isotopes. With its possession of 200 nuclear bombs, as has been confirmed, Israel has joined the club of nations possessing nuclear weapons. So how can the ban on nuclear weapons apply to all small countries, which are punished if they do not suspend their nuclear programs or comply with international inspection, and the same ban would not dare come close to Israel? It is no longer a political issue, but a matter of survival of humanity. Thus, a world campaign for the nonproliferation of mass destruction weapons serves human and not political, ethnic, or regional goals. It is an issue that concerns all people living in this world, which is becoming more troubled the closer we come to the 21st century.

File on 16 'Terrorist' Elements Submitted to Yemen

NC0707204994 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 18

[Text] Egypt last week submitted to the Yemeni Government a file containing the names of 16 terrorist elements who are still receiving training in Yemen after fleeing Afghanistan. The file includes the dates of their entry into Yemen and their present locations.

Lawyers Detained for Leaflet Distribution Released

NC0607044694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Prosecutor General Counselor Raja' al-'Arabi issued an order today releasing lawyer Ahmad Nasir, a former Lawyers Association member, and four other lawyers from detention. They are Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, Ahmad Hilmi 'Abbas, Fathi al-Najjar, and Jamal 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The five lawyers were arrested over the past few weeks for distributing leaflets inside the South Cairo District Court during a hearing to renew the remand of several lawyers who were detained during the demonstrations outside the Lawyers Association building on 17 May and referred to the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office.

Libya

Yemen's Salih Informs al-Qadhdhafi of Unity's Return

LD0807074294 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] A telephone conversation took place between the brother leader of the revolution and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who informed the brother leader of the revolution of the end of the secession and the return of Yemen's unity. He also informed him that Aden welcomed the unionist forces with cries of joy and jubilation and flowers, and cooperated with them to end the secession.

He also said that Arab reactionary interference as well as foreign interference in Yemen's affairs, which was behind the secession, has been confirmed.

Libyan-Algerian Joint Committee Meets in Tripoli

Meeting Previewed

LD0407135794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jul (JANA)—The meetings of the Joint Libyan Arab-Algerian Higher Committee, which includes the secretariat of the [words indistinct] committee in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Algerian council of ministers, will start in the Great Jamahiriyah during the following two days.

The agreements concluded between the two fraternal countries in all spheres and the means to consolidate bilateral cooperation in such a way which serves the interest of the children of the one people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria will be reviewed and discussed during the meetings, in addition to discussing numerous Arab and international issues of common interest.

Brother Mokdad Sifi, Algerian prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him are expected to arrive in the Great Jamahiriyah next Wednesday [6 July] to head the Algerian side in these meetings.

Sources of the General People's Committee of Unity said the experts and technicians committees will start their meetings at a later time today to prepare for the meetings of the Joint Libyan Arab-Algerian Higher Committee.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Algerian Premier

LD0707143194 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpts] In the framework of his eagerness for the development of the relations of integration and unity between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria, the brother leader of the revolution received yesterday evening brother Mokdad Sifi, the prime minister of fraternal Algeria, and the members of the Algerian delegation who are accompanying him and participating in the Libyan Arab-Algerian Executive Committee.

During this meeting, the brother leader stressed the eagerness of the Great al-Fatih revolution to rise to the deep historical relations between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria and the pan-Arab and struggle links between the great al-Fatih revolution and the Algerian 1 November revolution.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed also his eagerness for the development of the relations between the two fraternal countries on the way to achieving Arab unity considering that it is the path of progress for the Arab nation.

The brother leader of the revolution attended part of the meeting of the Libyan Arab-Algerian Executive Committee, which is meeting on the land of the Great Jamahiriyah in order to follow up the programs of integration as a unified executive apparatus between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria. [passage omitted]

The proceedings of the 8th session of the Libyan Arab-Algerian joint executive committee started in Banghazi this morning. The opening session was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and brother Mokdad Sifi, the Algerian prime minister. [passage omitted]

Committee Session Opens; Sifi Speaks

LD0707200194 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Banghazi, 7 Jul (JANA)—Meetings of the eighth session of the Joint Libyan-Algerian Joint Executive Committee opened here today. The opening session was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee, and brother Mokdad Sifi, the Algerian prime minister. It was also attended by the ministers accompanying the Algerian prime minister and members of the joint preparatory committee.

The secretary of the General People's Committee made an address welcoming the Algerian prime minister and expressing thanks and appreciation to him and the accompanying delegation for enduring the travel inconvenience they faced to attend the session.

He expressed his wish that the committee will, during its current session, be able to achieve and plan what will lead to integration between the two countries and the speeding up of unity between them. He said that annual regular meetings of executive officials has started bearing fruit as the higher leadership in both countries is able to assess the implementation of agreements reached; it can also assess the problems and obstacles they might face in order to find efficient solutions to them, [words indistinct].

He added that Libya's ties with Algeria are stronger and deeper than agreements and minutes of meetings. We are linked to Algeria by the common destiny, [words indistinct], and by our common interests, and the challenges facing the one people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria. [passage omitted]

The Algerian prime minister, Mr. Mokdad Sifi, made the following speech:

[Passage omitted] My visit to Libya at the head of an important delegation to attend the meetings of the eighth session of the Joint Executive Committee, reflects the importance of Algeria's initiative in the direction of developing and promoting the existing bilateral cooperation in various sectors of common interests toward the strengthening of ties of brotherhood and common destiny within the framework of our Arab and Muslim nation. [passage omitted]

We will achieve important integration structures through our brotherly relations in economic and social fields. In fact, the development transformations our two countries are experiencing, aimed at bolstering our capabilities and achieving our goals of social and economic progress in challenging circumstances, in which there is no room for weakness, require us to take a stance regarding these facts in order to guarantee the perfect course for our joint work and to give it impetus. [passage indistinct]

I wish to express Algeria's interest in the aspirations of the brotherly Arab Libyan people and its firm support for Libya in its ordeal, which produced repercussions against Libya. Algeria has stressed the need to work toward finding a solution to the so-called Lockerbie affair in a way that preserves the Libyan people's dignity and its legitimate rights, taking into account that Libya has expressed full readiness to respond to legitimacy.

The results of the meetings of the preparatory committee held between 4 and 6 July were reviewed. The formation of three working committees was also agreed. These are

the Economic Committee, the Security Committee, and the Foreign Affairs and Drafting Committee.

The opening session was then adjourned. The committees will start their meetings separately.

Clinton Offer to Poland Seen as 'Domination Policy'

LD0807102594 Tripoli JANA in English 0822 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Warsaw, Nasser [Jul] 8, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The American President made a pledge during his meeting with the Polish president to offer American assistance for Poland as well as for the Baltic state.

Such offers of assistance come within the pattern of domination policy applied by the American Government towards Poland and the Baltic states which aim at linking them to the machinery of American policies in order to dictate conditions on them.

Country's Policy Changes Discussed

NC0607201494 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Jun 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mahfuz al-Ansari: "From Sirte, the Gulf of Challenge— Mubarak-al-Qadhdhafi.... a New Concept. Bread and Guns.... Coordination and Development"]

[Excerpts] "States and peoples can live without owning a gun, a tank, or even a rifle."

"But what is certain is that these peoples themselves would be doomed to death and extinction if they are denied bread or a decision was made to deprive them of bread."

"Any international or other resolution denying Libya the right to sell its oil is a death sentence, a sentence of starvation and death passed against the Libyan people, not against its leaders."

This is what Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told us after concluding his non-stop talks, deliberations, and consultations with President Mubarak from the moment the latter arrived in "Sirte"—the Gulf of "challenge" as the colonel calls it—till his return to the homeland.

Our discussions with al-Qadhdhafi revolved around what he expects from the Security Council meeting in September that will discuss Libya's compliance with the Council's resolution on the extradition of the two Libyans accused of blowing up the Pan-American plane over the Scottish town of Lockerbie.

Will the Security Council respond to "Libya's flexibility" and accept the Arab plan that calls for letting a Scottish court with Scottish judges try the case in The Hague, the headquarters of the International Court of Justice?

Or is an escalation of the sanctions against Libya possible on the premise that Tripoli has so far refused to extradite the two defendants to be tried in the land where the crime was committed, "Lockerbie in Scotland," by a Scottish jury and according to Scottish laws?

Col. al-Qadhdhadi does not expect an escalation of sanctions. He hopes that the embargo and sanctions will be lifted and the problem will end. The colonel believes that the Arab, African, and nonaligned proposal will be "even handed, wise, and fair," both for Libya and for the West.

The man's expectations are not based on intuition or a sense of inevitability. His hopes are not aroused by political facts and realities and negotiations that bring the parties to a specific agreement. His conviction and belief do not stem from excessive good intentions and others' supremacy of reason and wisdom.

He is driven toward all this on the basis of logical reasoning that starts from basic facts and ends with results which are, necessarily, the natural outcome of these basic facts.

What are these basic facts? What are the results that make up the "logical issue?"

Not all the words and answers are those of the colonel but are the outcome of data collection and discussions that went on for around 40 hours—that is, the duration of the visit, from start to finish.

The first observation is that Libyan behavior has changed completely in the past three or four years. Its language and general direction, except in moments of exasperation and anger, have changed. Its practices, alliances, and actions have also changed.

The second observation is that the colonel's Libya has submitted "good conduct pledges," declaring in one of them its "full and scrupulous adherence" to international legality and UN resolutions. Included in this adherence was Libya's full withdrawal from Chad's Aouzou Strip, which it had formerly occupied on the claim that it was part of Libyan territory. This withdrawal was in accordance with a UN Security Council resolution.

The third observation is that Libya has shut down the assembly and training facilities for rejectionist and international terrorism gangs, which it had formerly harbored, and expelled the "leaders" who had run violent movements and directed worldwide violent operations from Libyan territory.

The fourth observation, or rather fact, is that Tripoli went farther still. It tried to "buy trust," prove its goodwill, and turn over a new leaf with Britain when it submitted to it name lists of the IRA, a group it had formerly supplied with money and weapons.

In another sphere, Libya changed its tone about such issues as "Arab revolutionist ideology" and rejectionism.

It altered its tone and positions about the conflict with Israel and maintained that the Palestinians are the party who have the right to choose the method by which to restore their land and rights and that no one has the right to exercise one-upsmanship over them in this affair.

Furthermore, in a move designed to prove his goodwill, the colonel allowed a group of Libyans to visit Jerusalem in the occupied Israeli-controlled territories to perform religious rites there instead of in Mecca and Medina.

In the context of this clear-cut good conduct, trust-building, and adherence to the law, legality, and normal relations, Col. al-Qadhdhafi declares:

"We are willing to cooperate with the West. We have shown a lot of goodwill. We have numerous big, multi-billion-dollar strategic projects that we prefer U.S. and European companies carry out rather than others, if they listen to reason and side with righteousness, halt their pressures, and end the sanctions against us. We are not, however, willing to sacrifice our revolutionary character, principles, or positions in return for nothing. We are not willing to accept blows, insults, and injustice meekly but would rather die in dignity. We would rather make sacrifices and accept the challenges imposed on us, because that is a thousand times better than surrender."

The question in our minds and hearts has two parts. Although it has already been mentioned, we repeat it.

First, what is the general situation in Libya like?

Secondly, why this apparently surprise visit by President Mubarak to Libya? What is the significance of its timing?

Doubtless "Libya's siege condition" is one of hardship. Perhaps this hardship is precisely what the "siege" is intended to produce.

This "Western stance" is not limited to Libya, but is a general policy. The adherence of the United States and its Western allies to this policy reaches the point of "a binding strategy."

We see this being practiced against Egypt from more than one angle, sometimes in the form of pressure in the name of human rights, sometimes pressure via unfair IMF and World Bank conditions, and at other times hinting that another 20 percent of Egypt's remaining 50 percent of the original debt will not be written off, as had been decided, unless....

Finally there are the burdens imposed by GATT and other agreements.

We see this policy being exercised against North Korea, China—for some time at least—India, Iran, and with more violence, against Iraq. The policy is implemented against the allies themselves, such as Japan to make it open its markets wider and stop adopting further protectionist policies.

It is exercised against South Korea by involving it in "an artificial confrontation" that will impose on it larger military expenditures and a greater participation in defense arrangements in the Pacific and Asia and surrounding regions, in addition to slowing down its economic development.

We see the same policy being applied against the "EU," [European Union] Singapore, and many others.

This nominal deviation from our main theme is not a deviation from the basics but a larger attempt at understanding. This period in the global changes requires Washington to impose the policy of "preoccupying" or "hampering" all the powers, both allies and enemies, until the superpower can formulate its "new global plan" and draw up the laws for the order that will inherit an order that has in fact collapsed.

We return to Libya and its "siege," Mubarak's visit and its timing.

The Libyan leadership, most probably, never thought that the siege and the sanctions would be imposed for so long a time. It believed that it could reach a satisfactory and quick settlement through flexibility, the building of bridges of confidence, and the allure of opening the job and investment market for the west. But this leadership was never sure that the siege and the embargo would be lifted. Hence, its policy was characterized by "concern" in addition to its commitment to flexibility while giving off "a breath of anger" from time to time. This Libyan "concern," its burdens and "human costs," only increased the people's sufferings.

Facts and figures say that "Libyan revenues" from oil have not been shaken by the international siege or the embargo resolution. The sale of oil has remained permissible and the ports have remained open. European countries that have benefited from, consumed, and bought Libyan oil have compelled the Americans not to extend and expand the sanctions to include this area. Therefore, Libya has the same old revenues. But the fears of escalating the sanctions to include a ban on the sale of oil or its sources of revenue or expanding them to the extent of imposing a naval blockade like the aerial one, has remained uppermost in the Libyan leadership's mind and moods. This is why it imposed an "austerity" policy. It imposed a tightening of belts; and this, in turn, has had numerous consequences for the people's daily lives, trade, people's travel, entry and exit. The result was a drop in the value of the "Libyan Dinar." The value of a Libyan Dinar was at one time $3 but now the dollar is valued at 3.5 Libyan Dinars. The result was an unreasonable rise in the price of all commodities, the flight of private capital abroad, and delays in paying employees their salaries for one, two, three months. The biggest and most important result was an extensive stoppage in economic development activities.

At this point, we can take the second part of the question, namely: Why did Mubarak visit Libya? Why now? [passage omitted]

As the date for the Security Council meeting gets nearer and in view of the possibility that sanctions might be intensified or reduced, it was natural for Mubarak to go to "Sirte," to Libya to be apprised of the colonel's views and opinions in light of the Arab, African, and nonaligned proposal to solve the "Lockerbie crisis" so that the president can start his endeavors, contacts, and efforts with the other parties in the United States and Europe in order to reach an understanding that will lead to a solution.

With the Arab situation moving from one crisis to another, from one catastrophe to another "tragedy," from Somalia to Yemen, from Algeria to Iraq and to others countries, it was reasonable for the two men to exchange views for the sake of coordination, joint action, and conscious intervention to contain the crises and defuse the threat of war. [passage omitted]

Sudan

DUP's al-Hindi Calls For 'National Front'

PM0107125894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Jul 94 p 6

[Interview with al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidine al-Hindi, secretary general of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, by unidentified correspondent in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] Your wing is accused of letting the Sudanese opposition down and of working against the [opposition] Democratic National Grouping [DNG]. What is your opinion?

[Al-Hindi] We have no wing. We are the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], which is the national movement party, as its eternal leader (Former President) Isma'il al-Azhari said. The national movement's founder and the Democracy teacher in Sudan cannot be accused of disappointing any objective and serious opposition to any military or civilian totalitarian and dictatorial regime. Our party—as it has always done—is leading an objective and serious opposition against military dictatorship. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] The Sudanese scene has witnessed a major split since southerners demanded separation. What is your position on this issue? And what would you say to those who support a referendum on self-determination?

[Al-Hindi] Before answering your question I would like to say that only a meager section of the brothers supports the separation proposal. It is more appropriate to address the question to the grouping's leadership, if there is one. Maybe the split you refer to is the collapse of the cane houses over the heads of those living in them!! Because of our belief in our struggle program in the party, we were not—praise be to God—among them. And our reply to those who support a referendum on any kind of self-determination is what President al-Azhari said, namely "you have to accomplish the impossible before that can be done." This is our position. It is more appropriate for those discussing the fate of a homeland that has its own borders and people to prove their own citizenship first, because they have exposed their affiliation to doubt and their behavior to suspicion!

[AL-HAYAH] What is your position on the initiative put forward by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and Drought, IGADD, to hold negotiations between the government and the rebels? And how do you visualize a solution?

[Al-Hindi] The IGADD initiative is weak and incoherent and will result in futile discussions if implemented. What is it going to achieve if only the conflicting parties—the regime and the rebels—who are both engaged in a completely illegitimate war, attend the meetings and share the country between them, so that the southern movement has a federation in which to exercise infighting and the northern regime has the right to do as it wishes under any name or measure? This does not guarantee the homeland's safety or territorial integrity; maybe it is in the interests of parties other than the unified Sudanese homeland and its united citizens. We believe that it is the Africans' duty to study their continent's carefully. The party's opinion in this connection is that a constitutional conference should be convened, bringing together those opposed to the regime in Khartoum, in the presence of the UN secretary general and UN representatives, as well as representatives of the OAU and the Arab League, in order to explore the chronic historic problem between north and south Sudan.

[AL-HAYAH] What formula do you propose to solve Sudan's problems?

[Al-Hindi] In the past there were no problems in Sudan, because Sudan is the country of tolerance and generosity, and a place like this cannot have problems. The problems used to come from outside and from several places and tendencies that pushed it into numerous conflicts that exhausted it, wasted part of its energy, and brought about two problems that have been obstructing its move toward securing a place among the centers of influence in the world. These problems are instability and the failure to complete development programs. These two problems have produced scores of other problems, hence scores of movements, calls, and allegations. Had it not been for its strong structure, Sudan would have been destroyed by the left and the right, from which it is suffering now. But just as it escaped the left's hammer, so it is going to escape the right's sword brandished in its face.

We called earlier for the formation of a national front. This is not a grouping of parties, organizations, and people tasked with running theoretical wars from behind their desks and in meeting rooms, or who are optimistic about the tragedies inflicted on their homeland and citizens on the grounds that they are indicative of the regime's downfall and augur well for their own victorious return. The national front is an ideology, programs, common aims, and jihad for the sake of the homeland and citizens, not for the sake of individuals and organizations. We as a party have undertaken to shoulder this responsibility and move forward. This is the last round

with Sudan's last problem. Sudan is currently ruled by people whose punishment should fit their actions—to prepare for war, not unleash words, that is from inside, not outside, the country.

[AL-HAYAH] What is your opinion on the arrest of Former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi?

[Al-Hindi] Anyone who enters a home other than by the door is not applying logic or reason, rather, violence and intimidation. When the regime assumed power, rumors about reconciliation began to emerge from time to time. We openly declared our position on this: no reconciliation, negotiation, or appeasement, because anyone who does that is ignoring the bodies of the martyrs and the sweat of the oppressed. As for the arrests, they will not stop. They will stop only when this oppressive regime has been toppled. With regard to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's arrest, it is a naive theatrical ploy which the regime is using against all leading citizens. It did the same with Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy secretary general of the DUP. It did the same with 'Ali Mahmud Husayn, al-Hajj Naqdallah, and many martyrs who were victims of these theatricals.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Calls On G-7 To Support Efforts in Rwanda

LD0807012394 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] In his capacity as a president of the Organization of African Unity [OAU] and within the context of his eagerness to follow up the implementation of the resolution issued by OAU's 30th summit held recently in Tunisia, President Ben Ali called the OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim to a working meeting yesterday morning [7 July] at Carthage Palace.

During the meeting, the main issues in the African arena were reviewed, especially conflicts in some areas of the African Continent. Because President Ben Ali stressed the need to accurately follow up the developments of African situations, the OAU secretary general is to call, as soon as possible, a foreign minister-level meeting of the central apparatus of the preventive mechanism set up during the latest OAU summit to deal with and solve African conflicts.

Regarding the situation in Rwanda, the need to implement OAU's 30th summit resolutions, particularly the ones on sending African troops to this country within the framework of the peacekeeping mission in Rwanda aimed at halting the fighting between the brothers and establishing security.

President Ben Ali made an appeal to the Group of 7 [G-7], which is to hold its summit in Naples on 9 July, in which he reiterated the African countries' readiness to meet their obligations regarding sending troops to this country. President Ben Ali called on the G-7 to support the African countries' efforts for a immediate and peaceful solution to this conflict by providing the necessary means and equipment to send and deploy African troops in this country before the end of July within the framework of the peacekeeping mission in Rwanda.

Kuwait

Amir on Prisoners in Iraq, 'Arafat in Gaza

LD0707125094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0958 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpts] London, 8 Jun [as given]—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, has stressed that Kuwait "has been endeavoring and will continue to endeavor" for the return of Kuwaiti prisoners, who are still detained in the prisons of the Iraqi regime.

In an interview with the Lebanese magazine AL-HAWADITH published in the issue due to appear tomorrow [8 July], he said that these prisoners were taken from their homes and taken to Iraq and that Kuwait was working earnestly at all levels to put pressure on the Iraqi regime to return these peaceful citizens to their families.

In reply to a question on whether the situation in Iraq could remain so bad, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad said: "This matter is left to the Iraqi people who in their entirety have become a hostage of Saddam Husayn." [passage omitted]

On security in Kuwait, he said: "Security is strong and firmly- founded and is increasing every day. It is becoming more firmly entrenched and guarantees the safety of nationals and residents of Kuwait and visitors." [passage omitted]

On Kuwait's stance on the Yemeni conflict, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad said: "Up till now we have been dealing with this matter from the angle of calling for a cease-fire and a calm dialogue between brothers to ensure that conflicts will be solved."

In answer to a question on his opinion on the way in which PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat entered Gaza and Jericho, he said: "This subject is puzzling. One does not know how to look at it." He added: "It is neither honorable nor a political stance for the PLO chairman to enter the Palestinian territories under Israeli protection. This is most disgraceful."

But Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad stressed that the State of Kuwait: "Makes a distinction between Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian people. It is our view that it is in their interest that part of their territory should be returned as a path to the return of all the territory."

Commenting on the position of the city of Jerusalem and if Israel will return it to the Arabs, the amir of Kuwait said: "This matter is determined and predestined. This holy city is the right of all religions that have holy shrines there."

He stressed the need for Jerusalem to be restored to its "original owners." [passage omitted]

In reply to a question Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad said he does not consider that there is an opposition in Kuwait. "All politicians are working for the interest of their country and for one aim, which is to serve that country and to provide prosperity, sovereignty, and a better standard [of living] for Kuwaitis." [passage omitted]

The amir of Kuwait said he is confident that even "those who are called [members of the] opposition do not oppose the standing, dignity, and sovereignty of the country."

Commenting on a question about the peace process in the Middle East, the amir of Kuwait called on Israel to return all of Syria's territory. He expressed confidence that this will happen "because Israel has no other choice."

He said he is convinced that this will not happen at Lebanon's expense and called on Israel to vacate all Lebanese territory in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

On Kuwaiti-Lebanese relations, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad recalled that Kuwait has always done what was required in support of Lebanon and has taken initiatives in the interests of Lebanon and the Lebanese people. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question about the efforts made to grant 25,000 persons of the descendents of those naturalized persons who were born to Kuwaiti fathers the right of nomination and election, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad said that those people "are entitled and have gained the right." In this respect, he expressed pleasure because this group "have joined their Kuwaiti brothers working for the prosperity and dignity of their homeland."

In answer to a question about Kuwait's investments, the amir of Kuwait said: "Iraq's treachery, the need to counter it, and the liberation of Kuwait have exhausted most of those investments and the little that remains cannot be relied on to back up the state's reserves."

Answering another question about the reconstruction of Kuwait and the redemption of Kuwait's budget, he said: "This will take several years and an agreed plan that is based on a clear and comprehensive study of Kuwait's economy and without any one-upmanship at the state's expense."

Commenting on a question about the possibility of holding an Arab summit at this time, the amir stressed that "this is out of the question." He also described the idea as futile and wondered: "If we disregard the issue of Iraq's treachery against Kuwait and look at the Arab world in its current reality, do you see anything in it that would make an Arab summit possible?"

He expressed his belief that such a summit "might contribute to increasing the differences between the Arabs without achieving a single grain in terms of clearing the atmosphere."

Replying another question on the inevitability of formulating an Arab strategy in the field of military industrialization among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad expressed doubts about the usefulness of this issue and said: "I believe that if we became involved in this field we would be categorized as backward, because if we manufactured a tank or any other military equipment it would be obsolete in terms of model and type before it reached the final stage of manufacturing."

However, he supported coordination [among the GCC states] which would lead to "certain steps and selection of the manufacturing fields, such as medicine, in which we have succeeded and which has saved millions of dollars for the GCC states, achieving a good industry on a par with the highest industries."

On relations between the United States and Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad said: "They are normal ties, which contain a great deal of gratitude for the stand Washington adopted during the Gulf War, gratitude which we will record with affection. However, the limits of these links are Kuwait's sovereignty and dignity.

Replying to a question about whether Russia is keen to remain a superpower, he said: "It is still a superpower. It has military and nuclear power and has enough weapons to be categorized as a superpower, and it continues to be a superpower."

Oman

'Media Official' Reveals Arrival of Yemen's al-Bid

NC0707203394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Muscat, 7 Jul (MENA)—A responsible media official in the Sultanate of Oman has stated that 'Ali Salim al-Bid and a group of senior companions arrived in the sultanate last night.

In a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, the source said that this absolutely does not affect Oman's support for the Republic of Yemen and the unity of its national soil.

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Issues Statement on Yemen

LD0807014094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0020 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Jeddah, 7 July (SPA)—King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over an extraordinary cabinet meeting on the evening of 7 July.

In a statement to the Saudi news agency, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir, said:

The king briefed the Council of Ministers on the situation in brotherly Yemen and the escalation of the situation there, especially in Aden and al-Mukalla, despite UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931, which provide for an immediate cease-fire, and despite all Arab and international efforts to bring the Yemeni tragedy to an end.

The following statement was issued by the Council of Ministers:

After being briefed on the situation in Yemen, which resulted from the Sanaa government's refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 stipulating an immediate cease-fire and dialogue without preconditions, the Council of Ministers would like to express extreme sorrow for the innocent lives lost, the blood that has been shed, and the property destroyed in Yemen.

The council condemns and deplores the Sanaa government for the continued fighting without any consideration for decisions of the international legitimacy.

The council reiterates its demand to the Sanaa government to cease fire immediately without preconditions and resort to dialogue to solve the differences according to UN Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931, pointing to what had been issued in this regard by the Damascus Declaration States in the final statement after their recent meeting.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aims only to would preserve peace and stability for the Yemeni people and for the countries in the region.

'Leaked' U.S. Report Anticipates 'Changes' in Regime

JN0607154194 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] London—Life seems to have sprung up in Gulf and, more particularly, Saudi opposition circles, having been privy to a leaked and especially important U.S. report anticipating substantive changes in the tribal-based Saudi regime. The country was said by the report to be weighed down by an assortment of local and external strains and political and economic ills.

The U.S. report, based on a number of studies carried out by security and academic think tanks about Saudi Arabia's domestic politics over the past year, has been submitted for President Bill Clinton's perusal. The Saudi system of government, in its present makeup, the study maintains, is not being responsive to public pressure—both political and religious—for reform, clean government, and democracy. Corruption, autocracy, and the undue influence wielded by the ruling Al Sau'd dynasty members in an Arab and world environ ever tending toward democratic and participatory government and a fairer distribution of wealth have never been worse.

Saudi opposition and human rights organizations sources contend that the U.S. Administration, which has initiated unpublicized contacts with them, is now convinced of the case for an overhaul of the Saudi regime and a breath of fresh air if the country is to be spared turbulence and divisions. The report notes that Saudi Arabia sits on the vastest known oil deposits in the world, for which the United States waged a war on Iraq to make sure Saudi crude kept flowing to the U.S. and European industrial machine.

To quote Saudi opposition sources, King Fahd's time is up and his days in office are numbered. They cite his confused policies and dwindling popularity not just with ordinary Saudis but also in the ruling family circles. The struggle among the sons and grandsons of the late King Sa'ud Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz over who will succeed King Fahd has never been so intense. However, the United States, the ruling Al Sau'd family, and Saudi opposition, all seem likely to plump for Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister and the late King Faysal's son, as Fahd's successor. The report cites his good standing outside Saudi Arabia and his popularity at home, as well as his financial probity.

According to the opposition, in the succession race, two are out of the running: Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz because of his extreme kindliness and poor knowledge of state governance, and Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Washington, for his unabashed corruption and clear unpopularity at home. Prince Bandar is said to have once been the target of an unpublicized assassination attempt by members of the National Guards, who owe absolute loyalty to Prince 'Abdallah.

The strong winds of change now blowing over Saudi Arabia will affect all tribal-based systems of government throughout the Arabian Peninsula. As a strategic ally of these regimes, Washington has begun a stock-taking exercise and betting on a partnership with new political forces in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, opposition sources add.

AL-MAJD can report with some measure of certainty that certain Arab states are already preparing to deal with a post-Fahd era. Certain Arab rulers have also begun preparations to set themselves up as the supreme Islamic authority by the end of the year to coincide with the reconfiguration in the Saudi political scene.

Yemen

South's al-Jifri Declares Unilateral Cease-Fire

NC0707151194 London MBC Television in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, this is just in: An official source in Sanaa has stressed that the northern forces have tightened their full control over Aden today. Aden television, now in control of the northern forces, announced that Aden has completely fallen into the hands in the Sanaa forces. The television, which carried the logo of the Republic of Yemen, showed pictures of the entry of the northern forces into the heart of Aden. The television said the suburbs of Aden have been completely cleared of pockets of southern resistance. Before the fall of Aden, fierce fighting took place between the northerners and the southerners. Telephone links between Sanaa and Aden and between them and the foreign world have now been restored.

In a statement, a copy of which was received by MBC, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, vice chairman of the Presidential Council in Aden, said the Southern Command unilaterally decided to cease fire beginning at 1600 local time [1300 GMT] today. He demanded an end to physical liquidations and the violation of people's honor. He also called for international protection for Aden and for lifting the siege on the city. He said the decision of the Southern Command was made as a humanitarian initiative to save Aden from the destruction that might be inflicted on it if the fighting continued, and to open the door to dialogue.

In a telephone contact with Muhsin Bin-Farid, deputy head of the government that was declared in the south, he stressed that the fierce fighting that erupted this morning in Aden was followed by wide-scale killings in the city.

[Begin Bin-Farid recording] The latest developments in Aden today is that massacres, killings, violence, and destruction in the city are in full swing. There are serious attempts by the southern political and military command, especially by Vice Chairman 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, to stop this mad massacre. But we believe that something has gone wrong with the northern military. We believe the war will drag on unless the northern war machine stops, gets back its senses, and comes to the conclusion—which we believe must dominate—that problems cannot be solved through violence, and unity cannot be established or maintained with guns. [end recording]

Sanaa Statement Announces End of Military Operations

JN0807064794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Statement issued by the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen on 7 July—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Statement issued by the Presidential Council:

Masses of our proud people: Thanks to God Almighty, the heroism of our Armed Forces, and the masses' cohesion and support for their homeland's unity, democratic march, and legitimate institutions, the scheme to fragment the homeland was foiled and the sedition,

which the gang of rebellion and secession tried to ignite among the sons of the one homeland, was brought to an end.

On the morning of this glorious day, 7 July 1994, our people scored yet another triumph by defeating the last remnants of the gang of rebellion and secession in valiant Aden, whose citizens rose to chase these remnants and underline their adherence to the homeland's unity and democratic march after being forced to suffer the rebels' tyranny.

As it stresses the termination of the last dens of rebellion and secession, the Presidential Council is pleased to congratulate our Yemeni people on this unionist triumph, which was achieved through the efforts of all Yemen's valiant sons. It also extends warm greetings to the men of the Armed Forces and security agencies who sacrificed all they hold dear to defend unity and establish its foundations and who confirmed that they are the homeland's shield that protects its achievements, security, and stability. The Presidential Council further beseeches God Almighty to grant the virtuous martyrs His blessings and forgiveness.

O our heroic masses: Now that we have managed to secure the homeland's unity and defeat the conspiracy of rebellion and secession, we are today required to undertake new tasks on the path of national reconstruction in all fields, particularly the task of removing the effects of the rebellion on the political, social, and economic levels in a manner that bolsters national unity and social peace and ensures strict abidance by law and order. All these tasks require large-scale national cohesion that is no less than the cohesion achieved while confronting the plot of rebellion and secession, which aimed to dismember the homeland and liquidate the gains of the Yemeni 26 September and 14 October revolutions and to destroy the democratic option that our people have chosen to vigorously build their present and future and ensure justice, freedom, and equality.

Announcing the end of all military operations, the Presidential Council emphasizes the following:

1. The implementation of the General Amnesty Law No. 1 of 1994, issued on 23 May 1994.
2. Readiness to compensate the citizens who lost their property as a result of the acts of rebellion. This will be in accordance with the regulations that will be decided by the Council of Ministers.
3. Continuing to abide by the commitment to the democratic course and political and party pluralism, maintaining the freedom of the press, and respect for human rights.
4. Continuing the march toward moving to a market economy.
5. The adoption of the principle of dialogue under the canopy of constitutional legitimacy to solve any political disagreements and discarding all forms of violence in political relations.
6. Expediting the return of normal public life in the areas harmed by the rebellion and sabotage, as well as the resumption by all those working in the civil service of the normal duties that their jobs entail.
7. Expanding popular participation and seeking a local government system that will secure broad prerogatives for the administrative units.

Under these circumstances, the Presidential Council emphasizes that the priority is to mobilize all efforts and potential and to channel them for the reconstruction of what the rebels have damaged, and to entrench security and stability in all parts of the Republic of Yemen, while giving special care to developing Aden and preparing it to become a free zone that will perform its vital role as the economic and trade capital in service of the national economy and local and international trade traffic.

On this occasion, we reemphasize that Yemen's unity will bring only security and stability for our region, and that we will continue work with the region's states and all the fraternal and friendly countries for the welfare and security of their people, security, and development.

God will grant us success. He is the best supporter.

Al-Lawzi: Calm, Stability Prevail After Aden Seizure

JN0707163694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Yemeni Information Minister Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi has stated that calm and stability prevail in all parts of the Republic of Yemen after taking control of Aden.

In a telephone contact with our radio, al-Lawzi said that all the pockets in which some of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] forces had barricaded themselves, have been dealt with. He pointed out that the Yemeni government forces have done their best to avoid the shedding of the Yemeni people's blood, and have given all those who have been misled the opportunity to rejoin unity and legitimacy. The Yemeni minister praised His Majesty King Husayn's support for unity and democracy in Yemen and his constant support for the Arab causes.

The following is a recording of the telephone contact by colleague Khalil al-Qaryuti:

[Begin al-Lawzi recording] The climate now is how to begin again to repair what the rebels have destroyed, and to completely reassure those who have been misled. This was successfully carried out in al-Mukalla yesterday. For example, arrangements were made to allow employees to resume work, and to pay them their salaries. This was previously done in the Lahij Governorate. Now, the same arrangements will be made in Aden. We repeat the announcement of brother leader 'Ali'Abdallah Salih's decision on general amnesty. This confirms that legitimacy and the political leadership exercise the greatest

tolerance because they are aware that the acts of rebellion and the eruption of the conflict in the country were carried out by a handful within the YSP command and those who cooperated with this handful. From this premise, the others were forced and coerced. The directives and instructions given to all the officials in the governorates, and those given to the Armed Forces are to give a good impression when dealing with these people to reassure them, and have them return to their positions and duties. There is no doubt that our Yemeni people—command, government, and people are grateful for and proud of the stand adopted by Jordan—king, government, and people; a stand which embodies the genuine, principled, and firm course Jordan adopts on all issues, including the issue of championing unity, legitimacy, and democracy in the Republic of Yemen. [end al-Lawzi recording]

U.S. Said Trying to Secure Passage for South Leaders

LD0707133294 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1209 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpts] United Nation, 7 July—A southern Yemeni official here said that the United States is negotiating to find a safe passage for the southern Yemeni leaders from the besieged Aden city to the eastern part of the country.

Member of the southern delegation in New York, the former Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abdallah al-Asnaj told KUNA that "It is possible that Aden will be seized but fighting for independence will not cease." [passage omitted]

In a related development, al-Asnaj said that Damascus Declaration's statement regarding Yemen, issued at the end of its meetings in the State of Kuwait yesterday noon, was "an important positive development" which would have repercussion on the situation in Yemen.

On his talks with the UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, al-Asnaj said that for his part he was not interested to continue these efforts because the other side did not have a negotiating power.

Replying to a question on the U.S. stance regarding the conflict in Yemen, al-Asnaj said that Washington was concentrating on the humanitarian issues in the current conflict.

Al-Asnaj said that "The United States is talking about humanitarian aids to Aden without giving a clear idea on who will receive these aids." [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Reportedly Granted Political Asylum in Oman

NC0707162094 London MBC Television in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Top south Yemeni officials, headed by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, former defense minister Haytham Qasim Tahir, and Interior Minister Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad left Aden a short while ago. They said they left Aden to save its people and what is left of the city.

In another development, a Yemeni diplomat has announced that southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid and five of his colleagues have been granted political asylum in Oman.

Envoy Says al-Bid in Oman

JN0707174294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1705 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Yemeni Ambassador in Riyadh Ghalib 'Ali Jamil said today that southern Yemeni leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid has been granted political asylum in the Sultanate of Oman where he arrived yesterday with five of his comrades. The ambassador added that the status of political refugee dictates on him not to carry out any political activity that is hostile to Yemen.

However, these reports were not confirmed by any official Omani source. [passage omitted]

An official spokesman in Sanaa has stated that the fall of Aden and the fleeing of the southern leaders abroad bring to an end the southern secession and rebellion. He added that a large number, estimated at hundreds, have surrendered to the government forces. He said that the Armed Forces have handed the country to the public security forces to run it in a normal manner.

The Yemeni spokesman said that it is not necessary to officially announce the fall of Aden through the media, given that what has taken place is a domestic affair during which the Government forces succeeded in crushing the rebels. [passage omitted]

Salih Addresses Troops on Building 'New Yemen'

JN0707192794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today visited the air base in Sanaa. He inspected the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Air Force and Air Defense, police and security personnel who will leave for the Hadhramaut Governorate to perform their national duty of maintaining security and stability in the governorate after our Armed Forces purged it of the remnants of the secessionist elements rebelling against legitimacy, led by traitorous agent al-Bid and his secessionist clique.

The brother president addressed them and congratulated them on the successes scored by our Armed Forces in their confrontation of the rebels who sought to foment sedition in the society in implementation of their criminal scheme and that of those who stand behind them to destroy the homeland and fragment its unity. He pointed to the large-scale support by the sons of our Yemeni people for the sons of our Armed Forces, who carried out

heroic epics to triumph for the people's will of safeguarding unity, democracy, and respect for the constitutional legitimacy. He noted that this popular support will continue to be a bright spot in the militant history of our people who were up to the challenges imposed by the rebels against the people and the homeland.

The brother president said: You will leave now to perform a sacred national duty in the heroic Hadhramaut Governorate, whose good sons have always embodied their deep loyalty to the homeland and their faith in its unity, and who have been an example of good citizenship and excellent national conduct. I hope you will be faithful to your duties of safeguarding security and achieving stability and tranquility for the citizens, and will enjoy the spirit of discipline and good conduct while helping the citizens to resolve their issues and problems.

He noted that our people, after they have ridded themselves of the elements of rebellion and secession, who tortured them and spread seditions and destruction in the homeland, are now moving from the battle of minor jihad [struggle against enemies] to the battle of greater jihad, the battle of development and of reconstructing what was destroyed by the war and sedition.

He said that the coming stage is the stage of development and reconstruction, and of compensating for the past period throughout which the rebels have obstructed all sincere efforts to develop the homeland, distorted the historical achievement of unity, and deviated from the great objectives and aspirations of our people under the eternal banner of unity. He said that when the people and their Armed Forces stood to defend the unity and repulse threats to it, they proceeded from the deep awareness that unity is the fate, destiny, the future, and the essence of the Yemeni pride and dignity, especially since it would be impossible to imagine Yemen's future without unity, that unity existed to survive, and that it has been entrenched and strengthened after it was baptized with blood.

The president added: Thanks to the support and rallying around of all the Yemeni people, our Armed Forces were able to accomplish their tasks successfully, to confront the rebels and expel them from the homeland, and to force them to surrender and end their rebellion.

The brother president said: It is time now for serious work to pursue the homeland's march toward the aspired objectives of reinforcing the development of the modern Yemeni state which is based on democracy, political and party pluralism, and respect for human rights; of building the edifice of the state of law and order, justice, comprehensive economy, free economy, and social progress.

The brother president noted that the homeland's future is promising in light of stability and under the banner of unity and democracy. He stressed that building the new Yemen is the responsibility of all its sons, political forces, and social functionaries without exception. He said that at this stage, more than at any time in the past, the homeland is in need of tolerance, turning a new leaf, and the pooling of national efforts for comprehensive development, and for modernizing the homeland and the state institutions on developed scientific and national bases which fulfill our aspirations for development and progress.

The brother president was accompanied during the visit by Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil, minister of interior, and Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, adviser to the Presidential Council chairman and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

Salih Orders Reoperation of Telephone Communications

JN0707140094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today visited the Public Telecommunications Establishment [PTE]. He was welcomed by brother Engineer Ahmad Muhammad al-Anisi, minister of communications, Ministry officials, and the PTE director general and its ranking officials.

The brother chairman was briefed on the PTE's activities, and the telephone projects included in the future plan to expand the telephone communications network throughout the republic.

The brother chairman praised the efforts made by the officials and workers in the Ministry of Communications and the PTE to develop communications in our country. The brother chairman urged them to exert more efforts to expand the communications network throughout the republic, particularly in remote and impoverished areas. He emphasized that the command devotes the utmost attention to the communications sector.

During the visit, the brother Presidential Council chairman gave instructions to reoperate all telephone lines in the various areas of the republic and to reopen international telephone channels between our country and the rest of the world after our country, thanks be to God, has overcome the exceptional circumstances that were imposed by the (?coupists) on our people, homeland, and unity.

The brother chairman was accompanied on the visit by Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil, and Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, adviser to the Presidential Council chairman and Armed Forces Supreme commander.

Correspondent Says 'Normal Life' Returns to Aden

JN0707190894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] A correspondent of the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', in Aden has said that normal life and calm have returned to the city. Shops have been reopened, and

citizens have resumed their normal lives, leaving their homes to secure their daily needs. This comes after the forces of unity and legitimacy, thanks to Almighty God and to the cooperation of citizens in valiant Aden, managed to purge the districts of the city of the remnants of rebels and outlawed traitors. Over the past days, those sides have carried out various acts of repression, torture, and terrorism against citizens, using them as human shields to protect themselves against the wrath of the people and the forces of unity and legitimacy.

The SABA' correspondent added that convoys carrying water, food, and juices have arrived in the city, and that the forces of unity and legitimacy have begun to distribute them among the citizens. Meanwhile, joy and happiness prevailed among the citizens, who exchanged congratulations on this historic occasion. Welcoming the forces of unity and legitimacy, citizens gave out cries of joy and chanted "long live unity." While the Republic of Yemen's flags were hoisted, citizens carried pictures of the militant nationalist, unionist leader, Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. Citizens chanted slogans expressing happiness for the great victory over the forces of apostasy, secession, and subservience. They praised the nationalist, cultural, and moral role that our valiant Armed Forces and security forces have played to protect citizens' lives and property.

The SABA' correspondent said that unionist citizens in Aden have chased the agents [word indistinct]. They apprehended them and handed them over to the security forces. Those remaining surrendered to the forces of unity and legitimacy. In statements to the SABA' correspondent, a number of citizens said that our proud Yemeni people have showed the entire world to what extent they adhere to their eternal unity and to what extent they rally around the legitimate leadership under the leader and symbol, Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. They also stressed their readiness and that of the entire people to defend unity and democracy and to sacrifice their blood and souls to preserve unity and to confront all plots aimed at harming the homeland's unity and sovereignty. They condemned the treasonous, agent, secessionist gang's practices against the homeland. They also condemned that gang's policy of terrorism and repression against the citizens, a policy which aimed to implement lowly schemes to partition the homeland and appease the enemies of the homeland and the people. They stressed that those schemes have foundered against the people's will, which is part of God's will, thus facing complete failure and (?loss).

The SABA' correspondent said that since this morning, Television Channel 2 has begun to transmit regular programming, showing film of the entry of the forces of unity and legitimacy into valiant Aden.

Official Says al-Riyan Airport Resumes Operations

JN0707202594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1920 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The al-Riyan Airport in the Hadhramaut Governorate was put back into operation today after a competent technical team repaired the damage to the electricity, telecommunications, and meteorological network, as well as the control tower as a result of the bombardment by the gang of apostasy and secession.

In a statement to the Saba' News Agency at the end of an inspection visit he made to the airport today [name indistinct], head of the General Aviation and Meteorology Authority said that the authority has provided the airport with all the necessary cadres and equipment [words indistinct] operating normally and planes are taking off from and landing on it.

Ministry Warns of 'Strict Measures' for Looting

JN0807054394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Jul 94

["Interior Ministry announcement"; date not given]

[Text] While congratulating our great people for the triumph of the forces of legitimacy over the rebels and the defeat of the secessionist plot, the Interior Ministry cautions the brother citizens that some sick-minded people may slip among the fighters and take advantage of these sensitive circumstances to loot public property from the public institutions and installations in the towns and areas that were under the rebels' control. In the process, they harm and distort the image of this great victory for unity.

Consequently, the Interior Ministry warns these people against such acts, which undermine security and run counter to our people's values. It also warns that it will take strict measures in cooperation with the Armed Forces and will mete out severe punishments against those rancorous individuals. It also urges the brother citizens and the security and Army personnel to cooperate with, and inform the Interior Ministry of the perpetrators of such acts so that it can take the necessary legal measures against them.

Efforts To Contain War 'Repercussions' Said To Begin

JN0807071494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Report by Hisham Milhim from Washington]

[Text] Following the collapse of the attempted secession in Yemen, the Yemeni government has begun a process to contain the internal and regional political repercussions of the two-month war. In a letter to UN Secretary

General Butrus-Ghali, the Yemeni government emphasized that an end has been put to all military hostilities in Yemen, and that it has issued a general and comprehensive amnesty.

The letter is regarded as the beginning of an internal process of reconciliation and political dialogue in which there is room for UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi's participation. The letter says that Sanaa is prepared to pay compensation for damages sustained by all Yemeni citizens and will apply the law on the care for the families of martyrs on all war victims. The letter also emphasized Sanaa's commitment to the democratic path, political pluralism, and freedom of thought. It also stressed the Yemeni government's desire to continue national dialogue under the constitutional legitimacy and its commitment to the provisions of the Pledge and Accord Document.

The letter spelled out Sanaa's desire for full cooperation with states in the region based on mutual respect, good neighborliness, and noninterference in internal affairs.

Informed UN sources say that it is quite possible that Brahimi might meet with Dr. al-Iryani [Yemeni planning and development minister] and Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the representative of the southern leadership, to discuss certain issues such as the amnesty and the safe passage and departure of certain individuals from old Aden.

On another level, the Omani government has informed Sanaa that 'Ali Salim al-Bid, leader of the Yemeni Socialist Party, has arrived in Muscat with some of his supporters. Some other southern leaders, including 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, have arrived in Djibouti and have perhaps moved from there to Saudi Arabia.

Dr. al-Iryani told Radio Monte Carlo that war has practically ended and Sanaa will speed up the process of national reconciliation and dialogue. Al-Iryani spoke of the need to turn over a new leaf in Yemen's ties with its Arabian Peninsula neighbors based on cooperation and the desire to preserve the security and stability of all because the stability of the region is a common responsibility, as he put it.

Al-Iryani: 'No Objection' to Meeting al-'Attas

PM0807111294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham, Faysal Makram, and Iqbal 'Abdallah: "'Ali Salih Calls for 'Forgiveness'; 'Democratic Yemen' Leaders Leave Country"]

[Excerpts] New York, Sanaa, Aden—A page in Yemen's contemporary history has been turned after northern forces took full control of Aden yesterday, after a 62-day war during which the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" [DRY] was announced. It was not recognized by any state. Government forces entered all parts of Aden without any significant resistance, while DRY leaders moved to neighboring states. However, AL-HAYAH received information yesterday about popular resistance in Khur Maksar and al-Ma'lah and house-to-house fighting.

Northern sources said that 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council announced in the south and secretary general of the Socialist Party, has moved to the Sultanate of Oman with four ministers. It has been confirmed that 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, who stayed to the last minute with those defending Aden, moved to Djibouti by sea yesterday morning, accompanied by Defense Minister Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, Interior Minister Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, Presidential Council member Sulayman Nasir Mas'ud, and Agriculture Minister Muhammad Sulayman Nasir.

The killing of Oil Minister Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, who was al-Bid's right-hand man, was confirmed yesterday. AL-HAYAH has learned from southern sources that Bin-Husaynun was ambushed by northern forces and Yemeni Reform Grouping fighters in the Fuwwah area near al-Mukalla last Monday. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development in the Republic of Yemen, has told AL-HAYAH that "military commanders no longer have anything to do with military activities," except security, and "we are committed to an immediate cease-fire throughout the country and to an immediate halt to military operations." He stressed that the efforts exerted Wednesday evening to negotiate surrender terms and a safe passage for southern leaders were no longer needed yesterday morning (Thursday) after "the Omani Government informed the Yemeni Government of the arrival in Muscat of 'Ali Salim al-Bid and a number of other leaders." [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Iryani said that he has no objection to meeting with [South Yemen Prime Minister] Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who is still in New York, and [South Yemen] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj. He added: "If the international intermediary (Brahimi) believes there is a need for a meeting, I am ready." He said that he has no objection to "drinking tea" with al-'Attas and al-Asnaj, but "for our part, we are not seeking to hold such a meeting." Yemeni sources said that a quadripartite meeting could be held within hours among al-'Attas, al-Asnaj, al-Iryani, and Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Ashtal. The sources expect discussions not to broach the past, but instead, "the future with regard to national dialogue under constitutional legitimacy."

Ambassador al-Ashtal said that what is being reported about the "fall" of Aden and al-Mukalla is inaccurate. "What has fallen is secession, the secession scheme, and the leaders of secession." [passage omitted]

Radio Congratulates Masses on 'Manifest Victory'

JN0707143494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Praise be to God Almighty who fulfilled his promise, granted victory to His followers and troops, and defeated the secessionists.

Finally, all wagers have been defeated and the rebels have lost everything. Those who supported the rebels are biting their hands in regret.

Al-Bid and his deviant gang had wagered on their military machine, without having any loyalty to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity. This hellish machine has turned into rubble all over the field of the holy battle, the battle in defense of unity, legitimacy, and democracy. They had also relied on foreign military and material supplies, political support, and media cover. They found themselves a scum drowning in the mud of treason at which all Yemenis spit.

They used the meanest and most cowardly methods to make the innocent civilians human shields to protect them from the disgrace of their defeat and fate. However, the forces of legitimacy, which have demonstrated great patience and extreme care during the military operations, have disappointed the sinful thoughts of the gang of apostasy, which wanted the city of Aden to be an arena for the ugliest massacre in the history of Yemen.

As part of their destructive scheme, the traitorous rebels chose the most important strategic and vital installations in the governorates of the republic and blew them up. The vile purpose of the destruction was to incite world public opinion, internationalize the crisis, and facilitate foreign intervention to undermine the sovereignty of Yemen and the dignity of the Yemenis.

However, the legitimate leadership, through the unmatched leader, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, said no to any interference in Yemeni affairs. The leadership said the Yemenis would not bow except before God. It said this out of its deep faith in God and trust in its legitimacy and the soundness of what it is saying. It was also aware of the Yemeni individual's extreme sensitivity to the question of his self-esteem.

As for the media that were hired to cover the secessionist scheme and propagate its methods of cheap political blackmail and bargaining, it is enough for them that they are admitting today that the forces of unity and legitimacy have dealt a finishing blow to secession and paralyzed the ability of the secessionists to resist.

So, what wagers are left now after the wagerers themselves have been defeated and Yemen—land and man—has cast them outside its sacred soil? What is left for those who had wagered on secession after their tools have met a crushing, ignominious defeat? Nothing at all.

Truth has now arrived, and falsehood perished: for falsehood is, by its nature, bound to perish. [Koranic verse]

Unity has triumphed because it represents an inalienable Yemeni right, as testified to by history, geography, land, and man. In addition, because the attempts to undermine this right are false in the first place, they have been defeated.

We finally appeal to our brothers who are still facing the forces of legitimacy to seize the last opportunity and save themselves from inevitable death by quickly shouldering the honor of national and historical responsibility and directing their remaining bullets to the chests of what is left of the members of the hired secessionist gang, from whose tampering and madness our people and homeland had suffered for four years, much more than what they had suffered in tens of years of colonialist presence and despotic rule.

History and future generations will not forgive those who sided with the rebels or sympathized with them. May any hand that extended any kind of help to them be paralyzed.

With extreme pride, we reiterate our congratulations to our great people on their manifest victory that is supported by God and the invincible will of the Yemeni masses.

Nightclubs Ordered To Close; Liquor Banned in Public

JN0807075394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Decree No. 82, issued on 7 July 1994—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
Republic of Iraq
Revolutionary Command Council
Decree No. 82
Date: 28 Muharram, 1415 of the hegira; 7 July 1994

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolutionary Command Council decrees the following:

1. The following places will be closed down:

A. Places of Entertainment
B. Discotheques
C. Nightclubs

2. The licenses of places serving all kinds of alcoholic drinks will be canceled.

3. The sale and consumption of all kinds of alcoholic drinks will be banned in the following places:

A. Social and cultural clubs
B. Clubs of societies, unions, and trade unions
C. Hotels, restaurants, and tourist facilities

4. Violators of Articles 1 and 2 of this decree will be imprisoned for at least one year. If the offense is repeated, the punishment will be at least three years imprisonment. If owned by the violator, the place will be confiscated. If the place is rented, the tenant will pay a fine equivalent to its cost.

5. Violators of Article 3 of this decree, whether they are perpetrators of the offense or accomplices, will be imprisoned for at least one year. If the offense is repeated, the punishment will be at least three years imprisonment. If owned by the violator, the place will be confiscated. If the place is rented, the tenant will pay a fine equivalent to its cost.

6. People's Councils will see to it that the provisions of this decree are duly applied.

7. The implementation of this decree will be the responsibility of the interior minister who may issue instructions to facilitate its application.

8. This decree will be implemented 15 days after it has been published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, Revolutionary Command Council chairman

Party Organs Empowered To Detain Illegal Money Dealers

JN0107111394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Jun 94 pp 1, 6

[Revolutionary Command Council, RCC, Decree No. 74 dated 23 June 1994]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
Republic of Iraq
Revolutionary Command Council
Decree No. 74 dated 14 Muharram 1415 Hegira corresponding to 23 June 1994.

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article (42) of the Constitution, the Revolutionary Command Council decrees as follows:

First: The party "section" leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the People's Council in the district are each granted the power to detain for a period of not less than one year and not more than three years whoever has bought or sold a foreign currency outside the licensed bureaus or has colluded for this purpose with employees in the licensed bureaus or banks. The detention period shall be five years in the case of repetition. In both cases, the detention decision shall be made by a majority vote.

Second: The detainee may appeal the decision made against him before the "branch" leadership with regard to the decision which has been issued by the "section" leadership and before the "higher leadership authority" with regard to the decision which has been issued by the People's Council in a written request to be submitted by him or his representative within a period of one week from the date of the issuance of the decision. The quarter to which it is appealed shall consider the grievance within a period of one week from the date on which it was submitted. This quarter may, by a majority vote, cancel the contested decision or endorse it. Its decision shall be final.

Third: The "section" leadership or the People's Council in the district shall communicate its detention decision to the district police station and send a copy of the decision to the general commissioner of police directly and to the Central Bank through the secretariat of the Regional Command in the case of the party "section" and through the "higher leadership authority" in the case of the People's Councils together with the seized currency for confiscation once the decision becomes final.

Fourth: The party "group" leaderships and the People's Councils in the subdistricts shall assume the powers provided for in Clauses "First" and "Third" above and their decisions shall be subject to appeal also under the provisions of Clause "Second" of this decree.

Fifth: If the quarters referred to in Clauses "First" and "Fourth" discover that the act mentioned in Clause "First" of this decree is an act of sabotage against the national economy, which is extremely harmful to the public interest, they may refer the accused to the competent court so it can take the measures against him according to the law.

Sixth: The punishment of the act provided for in Clause "Fifth" of this decree shall be amputation of the right hand from the wrist and amputation of the left foot from the joint in the case of repetition.

Seventh: The punishment provided for in Clause "Sixth" of this decree shall not be applied if the perpetrator of the crime is a juvenile. The punishment in such a case shall be custody for a period of not less than 7 years and not more than 15 years.

Eighth: This decree shall be implemented from the date of its issuance in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE until further notice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council

Writer Commends Empowerment of Party Bodies

JN3006151994 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Jun 94 pp 1, 15

["Viewpoint" column by Salah al-Mukhtar: "The People's Authority, the Embargo, and the Party"]

[Text] Whoever carefully examines the recent decrees issued by the Revolution Command Council, which have empowered some party organizations to detain people and confiscate the material circulated in illegal operations, should not conclude that what is being done is meant to only promote "popular control." As a matter of fact, such a person must examine the nature of the powers vested in party organizations, as well as the significance of this with regard to the embargo and ending it.

One of the hallmarks of the political situation in Iraq since the inception of the 17-30 July 1968 revolution has been the leading role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in effecting major and drastic changes in the society and building a model for Arab renaissance. Had it not been for the party's organizational presence throughout Iraq, it would have been impossible for the revolution to erupt, and for it to accomplish its basic missions since its inception, for that matter. Our party has been the catalyst for the great revolutionary changes witnessed in Iraq. It has been the leading instrument of change. This has been possible because Saddam Husayn, the leader of the revolution, is the secretary of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party. As such, he is leading the party organizations, which control the state machinery through cells that have reached the remotest Iraqi villages. Hence, the Ba'th Party has formed a highly effective machinery that directs the community and the state.

Moreover, the party apparatus constitutes an executive instrument, whose role in society is matchless. This apparatus ensures compliance with the decisions made by the leadership, and follows up on relevant procedures, either through coordination with the state organs or through popular control. Given these facts, one can say that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has played the role of an avant-garde force that spearheaded the revolutionary transformation process in the society. It has also shaped the overall course and policy pursued by the state.

The glorious battle of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah epitomized the party's leading role. In this battle, the party stood out as the major force that organized and mobilized the society and its masses, and marshalled its potentials in defense of great Iraq and to ensure a massive contribution by the masses to repulsing the Iranian aggression. Similarly, in the Mother of Battles, despite the ferocious onslaught and the unparalleled military force used against Iraq, the party's military and civilian apparatus was instrumental in promoting steadfastness in the face of the military aggression, and also in routing infiltrators during the chapter of treachery and treason.

Now that the embargo is in its death throes, and that the conflict is getting tougher and more complicated, the leader of the revolution and society has decided to promote the party's role in the decisive battle, which requires a different kind of efforts and measures to provide the best possible prerequisites of steadfastness and endurance.

When the enemies harm the Iraqi people's livelihood, food, and services—following the failure of all their methods—it becomes necessary to ease the suffering of the Iraqis as much as possible and to largely improve the services. These two objectives need something more than activating state departments and popular organizations, as well as something more effective and lasting than popular control.

The state departments, which are facing extraordinary challenges, need popular support to help them implement and follow up the decrees, as well as to make creative initiatives to reinforce these decrees. The experiment of the last four years has proved that the enemies' operation rooms work round the clock to abort the decrees and steps taken by the state to protect the people and facilitate their life under the siege. The enemies aim at turning these decrees and steps into formal measures.

Therefore, it is insufficient for the state simply to issue resolutions and for the official departments simply to follow them up. It has become necessary for the party to assume an effective militant role that combines both popular control and authority. Popular support is necessary to identify violations and evasion of state decisions which aim at easing the suffering of citizens. However, control alone is insufficient because the party does not practice its leading role directly but depends on state authorities and organs. Hence, in some cases, implementation of decrees was not followed up and no decisive

measures were taken to tackle negative cases that were identified by the party which reported them to higher levels.

Therefore—in order to face the wicked schemes of the enemies—there was a need for giving party organizations some executive powers that are necessary to put an end to the violations and deviations which increase people's suffering. Thus, wise and practical decisions were issued to give people, party groups, and popular councils arrest and confiscation powers against those who trade in people's food and who—knowingly or unknowingly—serve the enemies' schemes.

These decisions are important and serious because they give popular control the capability to decide things and to immediately put an end to violations. Thus, we will achieve two major results: First, violators will receive immediate and decisive punishment that will deter the overwhelming majority of violators; and second, the masses, which are the victims of the siege, will defend their own interests. This, consequently, will provide a comprehensive network of effective control which is supported by decisive and deterrent measures.

In light of this, it has become clear that the party leads the ranks once again in an honorable militant mission which aims at strengthening the spirit of steadfastness, easing the suffering of siege, and expanding the participation of masses in making today and the future. Therefore, we need creative popular initiatives to reveal the talents of party cadres and to promote them to the highest levels so that each citizen will play a role in the battle of ending the siege.

Money Exchange Operations, Black Market Reported

JN2806120094 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 4

[Article by Salim Rushdi al-Sa'di: "AL-QADISIYAH Sheds Light on Licensed Money Exchange Bureaus; Speculators in Foreign Currencies Are Thieves and War Rich; Why Has the Cabinet at its Recent Meeting Considered Dealers in Foreign Currencies Outside Licensed Bureaus as Thieves?"]

[Excerpt] No doubt the circumstances of the unfair blockade on our dear country are difficult and have produced many effects and changes, especially on the cost of living, markets prices, and foreign exchange. Many speculators, greedy dealers, and opportunists have emerged creating black markets for speculation and quick profiteering at the expense of the simple citizens, especially the illegal money dealings which have harmed the national economy.

Government directives and legislations have banned black market operations in the interest of the citizen and the homeland. On Monday, 13 June 1994, President Saddam Husayn presided over a meeting of the cabinet attended by experts in commerce and industry. The meeting discussed several economic and commercial issues, including the punishment of money dealers outside the licensed money exchange bureaus, considering them as thieves subject to the provisions of Revolution Command Council Decision No. (59) of 4 June 1994 and equating them with farmers who fail to sell their grain to marketing centers.

One day before that meeting, AL-QADISIYAH carried out an expansive press inquiry on money exchange bureaus and black market dealings and was convinced about the need to eliminate the phenomenon of illegal money dealings. So, the cabinet's decision has come as a reinforcement of our conviction.

Before talking about the inquiry, we must explain that the unfair blockade which is still being imposed on us is a kind of war. The stability of the exchange rate of the dinar against the dollar is not the responsibility of the government alone, but is everyone's responsibility. We are against the idea of money dealings being tampered with by speculators and black market opportunists. We are also against anything which involves capitalizing or speculating on and harming the interest of the homeland and the citizen. Any such speculation or capitalization taking place in the black market or elsewhere must be dealt with severely.

The citizen can play a positive role here through his sense of duty and responsibility by serving as an observer and by dealing only with licensed bureaus in a civilized, legal, and organized manner.

Let us now find out the number of companies dealing in money exchange and how they attract clients. What can we say in this regard? Actually, the best person to answer our question is Ma'ruf Ibrahim al-Rawi, director general of company registration in the Trade Ministry. He said: There are 50 licensed companies; 40 in Baghdad, 5 in Basra, and 5 in Musul.

[AL-QADISIYAH] How do these companies operate?

[Al-Rawi] They operate as dealers in foreign currencies in return for a commission which is fixed by the Iraqi Central Bank. Central Bank guidelines have authorized these companies to purchase 10 percent of the foreign currencies for themselves.

[AL-QADISIYAH] Where do they get the dollars and other foreign currencies?

[Al-Rawi] They get them from the local market.

[AL-QADISIYAH] What about these companies' relations with the banks?

[Al-Rawi] These companies deal directly with the Iraqi Central Bank, which supervises their activities and defines their method of work. They have no relationship with any other bank.

[AL-QADISIYAH] Are there any suggestions to attract clients to licensed money exchange bureaus so as to eliminate the black market phenomenon?

[Al-Rawi] Applying Central Bank guidelines and confining money dealing to these companies is the most ideal method for the success of these companies. Furthermore, full abidance by the recent cabinet directives concerning the application of the Revolution Command Council decision against those who deal outside the companies is one of the deterrent measures which will eliminate the black market phenomenon.

[AL-QADISIYAH] What about the citizens and what is required of them?

[Al-Rawi] Money dealing through licensed money exchange companies is a civilized method that has existed in Baghdad for a long time and is now widespread all over the world. It protects the citizen from the dangers of possessing counterfeit money, because it is the responsibility of these companies to thoroughly check the money they deal in. Citizens are duty bound to deal only with these companies. The drop in the exchange rate of the Iraqi dinar against the dollar is a temporary situation caused by the unjust blockade. Iraq is rich through its resources. It is an oil-rich and also an agricultural country. It has several mineral deposits as well as other resources. The value of the dinar is based on the value of Iraq's resources, civilization, and assets. The rise in the exchange rate of the dollar is just a temporary "outburst" or "froth." For the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth. [Koranic verse]. [passage omitted]

Paper Reports New List of Banned Imports

JN0107113294 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] It has been decided to ban the importation, display, and dealing in 91 commodities within two months from now. This is in addition to the previously announced lists of commodities whose importation, display, and trading has been banned.

This was announced to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY by Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, who explained that the commodities listed below are banned from importation, display, and trading in the local markets as of 21 August 1994, with the exception of similar items that are produced locally.

The minister affirmed that several punishment measures will be taken against contraveners in accordance with the provisions of laws and decrees issues in this regard.

The commodities banned from importation, display, and trading in the local market, with the exception of similar ones produced locally, are:

Canned meat. Live and canned fish. Eggs. Macaroni. All types of yeast other than that which is for making loaves and local Iraqi bread. Tomato paste. Washing powders. Soaps. Potatoes. Chicken. Glass. Sinks with their bases. Western and oriental toilets. Water level floats. Pipes and accessories. Painting brushes. Dairy stations. Plastic bags for packing fodder and poultry meat. Equipment for poultry projects. Hatchery eggs for producing poultry meat. Beehives. Incubators. Covers for drip irrigation systems. Production carriages. Polyethylene bags. Seeders. Hatcheries. Canning and packing materials. Readymade installations for poultry projects. Conveyor belts. Belts for coolers. Carton boards. Cotton fabrics. Wool fabrics. Furniture and drapes fabrics. Rayon fabrics. Gloves. Overhauls. Parts of oil furnaces and stoves. Parts of gas cookers. Metal bottle caps. Brick furnaces. Different types of textiles. Wheelchairs. Baby food. Pampers. Hot water bottles. Hospital beds. Water filters. Rubber gloves. Face masks. Anti-lice and anti-dandruff shampoos. Perfumes. Small dried lemons. Out-board motors. Equipment for making medals. Tanks which are mounted on vehicles. Luggage carriers. Dixan. Barbed wire. Bamboo strips. Floor covers. Manhole covers. Bathroom sets. Pocket and office calculators. Baby overhauls. Photographic paper. Movie films. Electric bells. Car antennas. Ordinary and steam irons. Fans. Hair driers. Anti-theft alarm systems for cars and homes. Personal computer calculators. Solvents for removing coat [illegible]s. Anti-rust agents. Paint tubes. Paint solvent. Stain removal agents. Engine cleaning solvents. Glass pulp. Ammonium chloride. Refractory clay. Vegetable materials used for braiding, including bamboo. Gas cylinders. Machinery and equipment for making food. Chemicals for photography. Photographic films. Sensitive plates. Photographic equipment, and radio communication sets.

Certain Items Excluded From Import Ban

JN0407132294 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 5

[Text] A responsible source at the Trade Ministry has told an AL-QADISIYAH correspondent that the following are to be excluded from the list of items whose display and sale will be banned after 21 August 1994:

Cotton fabrics and drapes. Synthetic fabrics. Other fabrics. Sinks with bases. Western and Oriental toilets. Bathtubs and showers.

New Group of Businessmen To Finance Food Imports

JN0107195994 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 5

[Excerpt] Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has announced contributions by a new group of merchants to finance food imports.

In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, the minister said that the contributions come in light of leader President Saddam Husayn's leadership of the economy and his instructions that merchants be given a chance to voluntarily contribute toward

financing some food imports. The merchants will be repaid in dollars after the economic blockade is lifted. This move is meant to enable merchants to contribute, along with other segments of society, toward confronting the economic blockade. [passage omitted]

Firm Government Control on Businessmen Urged

JN2806135094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 19 Jun 94 p 5

["Attention" column by Hasan al-Kashif: "Businessmen and the Blockade"]

[Text] Private capital is part of the national wealth and its activity is a basic part of the economic activity of the country. These are facts that some businessmen overlook purposely and others out of ignorance. In both cases, their behavior is harmful to the citizen and to the economy of this firm and steadfast struggling country.

Some businessmen are solely concerned about making as much as profit as possible and by any means, believing this to be their right. We also find them emulating Western capitalists by owning large mansions, sporting posh cars, and holding multi-figure bank balances. These emulators do not know that private capital plays a major role and renders great service in capitalist states and societies. These emulators do not understand that private capital in the West has built heavy industries, both civil and military, and contributed to the building of hospitals, schools, universities, airports, harbors, and sports clubs. In brief, private capital is largely responsible for the scientific, technological, industrial, agricultural, and sport progress in those countries. It was definitely responsible for these countries' colonial heritage and policies toward the Third World.

In Iraq, private capital has not entered its name in the record of reconstruction and accomplishments, nor in the fields of industry, agriculture, education, sports, housing, health, nor in any other major field. Despite the endless incentives given by the state, private capital has continued to play a marginal role, looking for dark corners to make quick profits without making any serious contribution to the campaign for reconstruction and development in the country.

In a situation like the present one, which is only temporary by all known standards, some businessmen are playing a role that is harmful to the citizen and the country and also negative in the current phase of steadfastness, struggle, and endurance. These businessman have not shown any regard or consideration for the interests of the homeland and the citizens. They have continued with their policy of enlarging their assets by every means, including some that conflict with the leadership's inclination toward lessening the burdens on the citizen.

These businessman, who are sabotaging the economy and undermining the steadfastness, are like the open-door-policy businessmen in the Egypt of al-Sadat and Mubarak, although they like to be compared with the businessmen of the imperialist capitalist West.

The entire wealth of these businessmen is an Iraqi wealth. So it must be spent according to the interest of Iraq first and foremost. Since these businessmen are behaving contrary to this interest, whether purposely or ignorantly, firm national controls have become essential not only on prices, but on all business levels, including the character, qualification, and history of everyone who calls himself a businessman. This is because these businessmen do not care about the life of the citizen or whether the citizen can afford to buy anything. This situation is absurd and unbearable.

Columnist on High Price of Transportation

JN0207055594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Jun 94 p 5

["Attention" column by Hasan al-Kashif: "On Transport"]

[Text] Whenever people talk about the high cost of living, they invariably mention transportation costs for both people and goods. A quick comparison between transportation costs for private cars and buses and those for government buses and trains will explain why and cause astonishment and even denunciation. For example, travelling from Baghdad to al-Ramadi on the buses of the State Company for Public Transport costs only one and half dinars and travelling to Hadithah by train costs six dinars. On the other hand, the fare in a private taxi is 300 dinars.

Whenever two government employees get together, transportation and its problems is bound to be their main subject of conversation. The first will say he pays 100 dinars daily to get to his department, and the second will say he pays even more and so forth. And, no matter how we try, we cannot not find a convincing reason for this strange hike in transportation fares, despite our knowledge about the increase in the prices of tires and spare parts.

The owners of private cars are faced with a national responsibility in the present circumstances. They can either help their low-income fellow citizens or become a burden for them. This is the moment of national choice. Everyone must choose according to his conscience and deep sense of national responsibility. They can either take the side of those who benefit from the blockade and thus become a part of this, or take the side of the patient strugglers who are confronting the blockade with prudence, austerity, patience, mutual dependence, and abidance by resolutions and measures that are aimed at strengthening the steadfastness of the homeland and the citizen.

The owners of transport cars musts remember very well that they are, after all, Iraqi citizens who pay for their

water, electricity, and telephone according to the subsidized government prices and that they send their children and families to government schools and hospitals free of charge. They must also remember that they receive their food rations at symbolic prices from the government and purchase fruits and vegetables according to the official price lists. None of them has the right to forget all that he gets and only remember what he pays for tires and spare parts, because if he does he is, wittingly or unwittingly, taking part in the blockade.

A general remedy for the hike in transportation fares requires the efforts of many influential quarters. Bolstering the government transport sector by adding more trains and buses is desirable. Improving and strengthening this sector and eliminating certain small negative points in it, will greatly benefit the citizen who sometimes has to spend a whole month's salary in order to get to work two or three days a week. These conditions are unreasonable and unjustifiable regardless of the excuses volunteered by some people; excuses that smack of odious greed by those few who exploit the homeland and the citizen. They are in the forefront of those who complain and cast suspicions and in both cases they are outside the national ranks and its good sons.

Minister Briefs Police Directors on Economic Crimes

JN0107064994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has praised the role being played by the Directorate for Combating Economic Crimes in the present circumstances resulting from the unfair economic embargo on our steadfast people. Addressing a meeting of the heads of the Departments for Combating Economic Crimes in the governorates yesterday, the minister said our first national duty is to serve our great people, using the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn as guidelines for our daily work, and to show firm resolve in the effort to build Iraq and to eliminate anyone contemplating undermining the security and economy of the homeland.

The minister reaffirmed the importance of closely following the phenomenon of displaying and dealing in commodities whose local production and importation have been banned, making the right practical decisions on this issue, and drawing up plans to eliminate this phenomenon. He also called for the elimination of the phenomenon of dollar dealings outside official bureaus by immediately apprehending whoever engages in such dealings and referring them to the special courts.

The minister heard a detailed briefing from the participants on matters related to the work of police departments and the need to overcome certain obstacles.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Interior Ministry, the commissioner general of police, and several officials from the ministry.

Al-Ta'mim Stores Closed for Price Violations

JN2906121994 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 29 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] Kirkuk, INA—The competent authorities in al-Ta'mim Governorate closed 13 shops that sell meat and vegetables for violating official prices.

Al-Ta'mim Governor Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri told an INA correspondent in the governorate that the governorate was divided into several sections supervised by police officers to monitor the market and implement the resolutions of the Interior and Trade Ministries on prices and to prohibit trade in imported and other banned goods.

Retail Dealers Instructed on Use of Price Tags

JN2906121394 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] The Ministry of Trade has instructed all retail dealers to attach price tags to all items offered for sale and to display them in plain view, so citizens can clearly see them.

A notice issued by Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih said the following:

Notice No. 2 of 1994.

Issued in accordance with the provisions of the Amended Trade Regulation Law No. 20 of 1970,

Based on the provisions of Paragraph 3 of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 456 issued on 29 June 1987, the following has been decided:

1. All retail dealers shall be instructed to attach price tags to the commodities they offer for sale and display them in plain view so that citizens may see them clearly.

2. The violator of this notice shall be referred to the courts and legal action shall be taken against him in accordance with the provisions of the Amended Trade Regulation Law No. 20 of 1970.

3. This notice shall go into effect as of 22 June 1994.

Official Congratulates Yemeni Leaders on 'Victory'

JN0707182394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference has congratulated the fraternal Yemeni people, leadership, parties, parliament, and unions on the victory of constitutional and legitimate unity over the conspiracy of secession, supported by reactionary, imperialist, and apostate forces.

In a statement to INA, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, the secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, said the Yemeni Armed Forces' control of Aden and the

rest of the cities of the south is a victory for comprehensive Arab unity and an ignominious defeat for the enemies of the nation.

He added that the escape of the secessionists from Aden has dealt a severe, decisive blow to the Saudi regime and its masters and allies, who sought to divide the Yemeni Republic that was the fruit of the will of the masses and their vanguard forces.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi praised the amnesty decree issued by the Yemeni government as a necessary prelude to enhancing national unity, deepening pluralism and democracy, and pursuing progress and development.

'Triumph' of Yemeni Unity Over 'Conspiracies' Hailed

JN0807094994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the Yemeni example and the triumph of the will of unity, just like the Iraqi lesson, provides yet further living proof that the Arab nation is truly able to express its will and defeat its enemies, regardless of the extent of the aggressive, hostile conspiracies against its aspirations.

In an article today, the paper stresses that the Yemeni constitutional legitimacy has taken the final step to defeat the secessionists and the renegades and to foil their evil scheme, which is aimed at encroaching on the unity and will of the Yemeni people, destroying their pillars of civilization, and turning Yemen into a field of bloody conflict.

The paper adds: It is fair to say that this victory would not have been possible in the way it was achieved if Sanaa was not proceeding from an established faith in a genuine national right and a constitutional legitimacy, supported principally by the Yemeni people and Armed Forces. That reality is confirmed by the fact that Sanaa has not received any kind of military support from any Arab or foreign party, except the supportive political positions that were dictated by the pan-Arab and humanitarian principles, while the coffers of the Al Saud and al-Sabah were opened for the secessionists and air and sea bridges were established for them. However, the will of unity and constitutional legitimacy triumphed, the enemies were defeated, and their ugly scheme was foiled.

Kuwaiti Rulers' Financial Support for Likud Seen

JN0407120794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 5

[Article by Hadi Tu'mah: "The Kuwaiti Rulers, the New Likudists"]

[Text] When Muhammad Subayh, Palestinian permanent representative in the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council, declares that some Kuwaitis are meeting with Zionist parties and offering big financial aid to the racist Zionist bloc, the Likud, which persistently calls for Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile, one must not be surprised, especially in view of al-Sabah family's treasonous record against the Arab nation headed by courageous and progressive Iraq.

And, when Kamal Dhiyab, a leading member of the Likud, himself admits to Tel Aviv radio that he and the personal assistant of the Likud leader Benyamin Netanyahu have met with Kuwaitis at the invitation of al-Sabah family "who expressed a desire to donate $1.5 million to the Likud in appreciation of its political stands, since its financial sources have dried up recently, and to establish joint ventures" then it becomes increasingly clear that the al-Sabah family is deeply involved with the Zionists, thereby deviating from the Arab nation's unanimous will.

This treasonous game, which has been going on secretly for some time, has come out in the open at the request of the overlords in Washington and Tel Aviv since the al-Sabah family began its direct strife against progressive Iraq, which aspires for the advancement and liberation of the nation, immediately after its great victory over Iran. This game has revealed one of the aims of the aggression against Iraq, as mentioned in several western studies and reports, including an article in JEUNE AFRIQUE in February 1990. This game has revealed the black hatred of the 30-state aggression, which achieved for the Zionist entity what no other party could achieve. It restored the disequilibrium in the balance of forces in favor of Zionism and its aggressive entity, Israel.

Of course, these are not all the stands which reveal al-Sabah family's lowly alliance with Zionism. These evil people were among the first agents to open their markets to Zionist economic penetration, thereby jeopardizing Arab security. They were more Zionist than the Zionists themselves. In fact, they tried to persuade others to follow their treasonous steps and used psychological warfare with the help of the Zionists and the United States in order to weaken Arab confidence and existence, spread despair among the Arab masses, and prevent them from standing on their own feet once again, let alone advance.

This is not all. The Arab masses are aware of other recent stands. The al-Sabah family is in the forefront of those conspiring against Yemeni unity, financing the separatist elements, and stoking the fire of the tragic fighting in Yemen. These rulers [al-hukkam] gave $500,000 in aid to the aforementioned racist aggressive party to cover its expenses during the 1992 election campaign and to back its political stands!

The al-Sabah family's treason runs in its blood and it has produced Zionist puss that spurted forth here and there on Arab lands to poison Arab life and existence. These hostile stands have continued to reveal al-Sabah's "clandestine" role for the cherished Zionist day. However, the Arab nation, which has emerged victorious from all

tribulations and hardships throughout its long history, will not let these people gain anything other than the inevitable miserable fate met by all previous enemies.

U.S.-Dropped Cluster Bomb Explodes in Ninawah

JN0407103194 Baghdad INA in English 0845 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, July 4, INA—A cluster bomb dropped by the U.S.-led coalition warplanes went off in Ninawah Province, 400 km north of the capital Baghdad.

The explosion claimed lives of Nawar Dhulnun Yunus, 13, and his sister Qaydar, 11, when they were playing near the house.

U.S., Allied Aircraft 'Violations' Protested

17-24 Jun 'Violations' Noted

JN2806132294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Iraq has once again protested to the Arab League over the continued facilities provided by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to the U.S., British, and French aircraft in their continued violation of Iraqi airspace, which threaten Iraq's security and sovereignty.

In a letter he sent yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League said that, between 17 and 24 June, these aircraft continued their violations and conducted 301 hostile air sorties after taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Iraq's permanent envoy asked that his letter, which contained a list detailing these violations, be distributed to the Arab League member states to inform them of these regrettable facts.

25-30 Jun Sorties Protested

JN0407091594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraq's airspace, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent Arab League representative said these aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace between 25-30 June, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The aircraft carried out 230 aggressive sorties.

Enclosed with the letter was a list giving specific details of the violations.

Rabin, Peres Comment Upon Return From Paris

TA0707191094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1750 GMT 7 Jul 94

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres upon their return from talks in Paris, at Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Rabin] We have returned from a brief visit to Paris for the purpose of, primarily, receiving a UNESCO award, given jointly to 'Arafat, Peres, and myself. We seized the opportunity and held discussions with 'Arafat and his team regarding the continuation of the process of implementing the Declaration of Principles [DOP] agreement. Since we were in France, we held meetings with the French president, prime minister, and the foreign and defense ministers.

Regarding the continuation of the process, we held two meetings, one at noon and the other later at night. We decided to set up three committees: One will deal with the issues remaining from the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, about which we agreed to continue discussion. It will also deal with the implementation of things that have not yet been implemented. The second committee, in accordance with a commitment undertaken through the Cairo agreement, will deal with early empowerment on five issues and will, naturally, consider additional issues, including elections. At the same time it should be remembered that elections can be held and there is a point in holding them if we reach agreement regarding the autonomy arrangement for Judaea and Samaria. The third is the quadripartite committee of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians which, of course, was introduced as a Palestinian demand to which we agreed. It appears in the DOP and was mentioned in the Cairo agreement. I attribute great importance to the continuation of the process while stabilizing Gaza-Jericho First from the two aspects of security and economic problems.

In meetings with French officials, in addition to exchanging information, we discussed the issue of changing the agreement between Israel and what used to be the EEC—now the EU [European Union]. We discussed updating it to correspond with the new reality in a hope that Israel will be granted a better status in three areas: industrial exports connected to rights of origin; agricultural quotas; and research and development. Today, we were given an initial positive French reply on one of the issues that was in dispute regarding research and development and I hope that, on the basis of the French positiveness and knowing that other EU members support our requests, there may be some very positive developments in our relations with the EU.

We have returned after reaching an agreement to begin talks next week. Naturally, this is a process of talks that will examine commitments made in the DOP. I wish to clarify a point: Based on the talks we held, I believe that the issue of elections was raised largely due to the fact that Israeli and international figures and the media alleged that the Palestinians—the PLO—fear elections. I also believe that following 'Arafat's visit to Gaza and Jericho, they gained more confidence through the public support for them, but they wanted to express this and brought up the issue of elections in our talks in order to stress that they want this, are not afraid, and believe they are called for. Since we made a commitment in the DOP, we agreed. Negotiations are negotiations and, certainly, the issue of elections cannot be discussed separately from the interim agreement. In the first stage, however, I regard early empowerment in the areas discussed as important. This issue will be negotiated.

[Jerusalem TV Channel 1's Menashe Raz] Does the State of Israel intend to accept the PLO request and free Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in the near future? Also, is there any truth to the report that Yasin is willing to help locate the body of the missing soldier Ilan Sa'adon?

[Rabin] Regarding the second question, it was said a long time ago that he is willing to help. I cannot say that this had any results. As for the release of Ahmad Yasin, appeals are made occasionally. Yasin was sentenced to long-term imprisonment. It is not an issue for negotiation at this time.

[Raz] Regarding the negotiations with Jordan, do you know of a tripartite meeting between the Israeli foreign minister, the Jordanian foreign minister, and the U.S. secretary of state in mid July?

[Rabin] During the talks that were held—the bilateral and the trilateral, and together with the Americans—we offered to Jordan to move the talks to the region. We agreed on this, and we have yet to see whether this will actually take place. The current agreement is that in the first stage we set up a tent in a certain location in the 'Arava. At this stage, bilateral talks will be held there on security, borders, water, and environment. Two days later, there will be a tripartite meeting. We suggested that it be held on the foreign minister level, meaning the U.S. secretary of state, the Israeli foreign minister, and the acting Jordanian foreign minister. I hope this will indeed happen because I attribute great importance to moving the talks to the region. After the first meeting, if everything agreed on is implemented, the talks will be held on the Jordanian side and the Israeli side alternately.

[Raz] Lieutenant Yehuda Algrabli, may he rest in peace, was killed in Lebanon yesterday. Is there an intention of reexamining IDF [Israel Defense Forces] policy in the region?

[Rabin] There is no IDF policy. There is a defense policy about maintaining the security zone, and the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] activity in it, in order to provide peace for the residents of the settlements along our border with Lebanon. The methods of operation, not the overall policy, should be examined on occasion. In view of the fact that last week an IDF soldier and an officer were killed in two firing incidents at a certain post, we will assess the situation tomorrow morning at my office. We will not examine the defense policy, but

the conditions and circumstance under which the soldiers' conduct or the IDF method of operation should be changed.

[Qol Yisra'el's Shlomo Raz] The PLO and 'Arafat pledged to convene the Palestinian National Council [PNC] in Gaza to cancel the problematic clauses of the Palestinian Covenant. What do you consider a reasonable period of time for this to be done, and what will happen if the PNC is not convened and the clauses are not canceled?

[Rabin] I raised the issue yesterday at noon in the context of a conversation on various issue related to this matter. He announced this and it is mentioned in the joint statement. I cannot say that we have determined a period of time during which the PNC should hold its meeting in Gaza. At the same time, I believe and hope that he will keep his word. I will not deal with the question of what will happen if this does not happen in what we consider a reasonable period of time.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 7 July adds: "Speaking at a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport this evening, the prime minister said that Israel will allow PNC members to come to Gaza for discussion, during which 'Arafat will ask them to change the Palestinian Covenant. Rabin added, however, that he does not want to say now whether Israel will allow all those who come to the territories to stay for good."]

Bethlehem Bomb Blast Causes No Damage

TA0707201594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] A bomb exploded in Manger Square in Bethlehem this evening. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that security forces were rushed to the site and a member of the Border Police bomb disposal squad found another charge hidden near the site of the explosion and dismantled it safely.

IDF Soldier Kidnapped, Killed by 'Terrorists'

TA0707195794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1943 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The following report has just been released for publication: An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, Arye Frankenthal from Moshav Gimzo, was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists. His body was found today in a deserted building in the village of 'Aqib near Ramallah. Our correspondent Moti Amir has the details:

[Amir] The investigation of this terrorist incident so far indicates that the terrorist squad that murdered Arye Frankenthal kidnapped him last night when he was traveling from his Armored Corps base in the south to his home in Moshav Gimzo in the Ben Shemen area. Yesterday afternoon, Arye called home and notified his mother that he is coming home for medical tests. When he failed to arrive, his family notified the IDF, and he was reported missing. It appears that he was kidnapped by the terrorists in the Jerusalem area when he was trying to catch a ride to Gimzo. His abductors wounded him with a knife in the car and took him to the village of 'Aqib where they shot him to death, leaving him bleeding in a house that was recently closed. [passage omitted]

Girl Killed Near Hebron; Shots Fired at IDF in Gaza

TA0707191994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] A terror attack took place this evening near Hebron. A 17-year-old girl was killed, her father was injured in the shoulder, and her brother was wounded in the legs by shots fired by terrorists from a traveling car around 2100. They fired at a family car near the Harsina Junction. The terrorists fled into Hebron and their car was later found burned. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that large IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units are currently combing the area.

It is currently known that the terrorists' car passed the car of the Qiryat Arba' family, and the terrorists fired automatic weapons. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports from Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital that the boy suffers bullet wounds in his legs. The attack this evening took place near the site where Mordekhay and Shalom Lapid were murdered several months ago.

In the Gaza Strip today, shots were fired at IDF soldiers on two occasions. No one was hurt. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that several shots were fired at an IDF post near the regional coordination office in the Qatif Bloc. Two terrorists were seen fleeing the scene. In another incident, shots were fired at an IDF post at the border fence around the Gaza Strip near Dayr al-Balah. The IDF filed complaints about the shooting with the Palestinian representatives at the coordination office.

Opposition Parties React to 7 Jul Attacks

TA0807050494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] In reaction to yesterday's terrorist attacks, the Likud says the prime minister succumbs to Yasir 'Arafat and the result is uncontrollable terrorism. The Likud says terrorism must be fought without compromises, and it called on the government to cease what it called the campaign of concessions to the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Tzomet says the acts of murder prove that Palestinian intentions are not aimed toward peace but Jerusalem. The National Religious Party says security forces must not get caught up in the complacency of the political echelon and must respond with initiative and forcefully. Moledet says even as Rabin and Peres shake 'Arafat's hand in Paris, 'Arafat's people are pulling the trigger in Hebron.

In Jerusalem, dozens of right-wing protesters left their tent city near the Prime Minister's Office overnight and tried to block a number of roads. Another protest took place on the Ma'ale Adumim-Jericho road, blocking traffic for a while. Four demonstrators were detained for questioning. Two of them were arrested and will apparently be charged with attacking police.

Likud Official on U.S. Campaign Against Golan Deal

TA0707171494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The former head of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, says that the Likud is conducting a campaign in the United States against the government because it thinks the Rabin administration cannot achieve a compromise on the Golan Heights. Ben-Aharon told reporter Harry Braidman that the Syrians would only agree to peace, if Israel withdrew from the whole territory:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] Since the United States is very much involved in the peace process, and especially with regards to the guarantees and the deployment of American troops on the Golan Heights, than the issue is not an internal debate between two schools of thought in Israel, but it is a triangular issue between us, on both sides of the political spectrum, and the United States. Americans and American legislators have queried me on the importance of the Golan Heights—having heard from Mr. Rabin many a time during the last 27 years how vital is the Golan to the defense of Israel—and they asked us, me and my colleagues, what happened that caused such a dramatic 180-degree change in Mr. Rabin's position. Since the issue is of vital importance to Israel and the United States is, as I said, deeply involved, we saw fit to explain our position to the United States.

[Braidman] But the government says that it is working for compromise on the Golan Heights, and not to withdraw totally. What ground do you have for thinking that this is not achievable?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, you see, Mr. Rabin has made a number of statements that subsequently were found to be different, if not the opposite, of what subsequently evolved. In other words, we have every reason to fear that what Mr. Rabin has in mind is a total withdrawal from the Golan because otherwise he will not get an agreement—the kind of agreement he wished to achieve—with Syria. Therefore, we have to do everything in our power in order to frustrate such an eventuality, and for this reason we find that there is a meeting of minds between us and Americans who are concerned with regard to the deployment of American troops on the Golan Heights. [end recording]

Deputy Minister Predicts Continued Hizballah Actions

TA0807062194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur says fighting in south Lebanon most likely will continue. Gur said the difficulties which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is encountering in Lebanon are not military in nature. He added that the biggest problem is the weakness of the local government to establish order among the civilian population. Alan Ben-'Ami asked the deputy defense minister if the fighting in south Lebanon is connected to the peace process, in particular U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Syria:

[Begin recording] [Gur] I don't believe there is any direct connection. I believe that the Hizballah are there in order to operate against Israel and against Israeli presence in Lebanon. We have to remember that the Hizballah belongs to that part in the Muslim world that sees in Israel a permanent and total enemy, and they are against any peace process. So here we have to deal with a very extreme, fanatic element, and against them we have to find ways.

But no doubt you are right in connecting Hizballah to the Syrian behavior, because no doubt the Syrians can stop, even totally, the activity of the Hizballah, because the Syrians control all the roads, all the infrastructure, all the communications. The Syrians have their own interest to keep that part of Lebanon on fire, because this is their tradition—to go ahead and move always in these two directions: the political one and the military one—and in days like that in which they feel that maybe they are neglected a little bit in the peace process, they might try to increase their military activity. This is quite difficult to prove, but I believe that we have to take that as an assumption, a real assumption of their behavior. But of course, as long as we shall not hear from the Syrians the real essence of the peace the way they see it, it will be impossible to continue our political process as much as we would like to do it, and we shall have to find, as I mentioned before, the ways, and I believe that we shall do find the ways to overcome the activities of the Hizballah.

[Ben-'Ami] So, for the immediate future, it sounds as if you are expecting more of the same, perhaps even more.

[Gur] I believe so. I believe that unless there is any basic change, unfortunately we have to be ready for quite a lot of Hizballah activity in Lebanon. [end recording]

Thirty-one Iraqi Defectors Imprisoned in Israel

TA0807050794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Thirty-one Iraqi citizens who fled Saddam Husayn's regime are currently incarcerated in various

Israeli detention facilities. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the Israeli authorities want to extradite the Iraqi defectors, but no country has agreed to accept the them as yet.

Hamas Leader Prepared To Help Find Soldier's Body

TA0707171294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is prepared to help find the body of soldier Ilan Sa'adon. A Sa'adon family representative, attorney Amir Avrahami, met with Shaykh Yasin at the latter's jail and heard from him that he wants to meet with prisoner Salah Shihadah who was responsible for those who murdered the soldier, so as to instruct him to lead to the finding of the body.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that at the meeting Ahmad Yasin spoke about the Islamic duty of burying the dead, and he will therefore help the Sa'adon family.

Al-'Anani: No Separate Treaty With Israel

JN0707201594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Jordan said it would be a mistake for anybody to think that this month's demarcation talks with Israel would lead to a peace treaty away from the Palestinian and regional dimensions.

Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said the talks will not be easy since they combine political and technical sides of demarcation.

He told journalists at the Information Ministry that plans are being drawn for carrying the opening of the July 18th talks live on Jordan Television.

The talks will be led by Jordan chief negotiator Fayiz al-Tarawinah, and Israeli Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein.

Western press reports have suggested that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might attend the opening ceremony in the Qa' Taba area, along the cease-fire lines in the Wadi 'Arabah rift valley, 17 kilometers north of al-'Aqabah.

Premier Briefs Senate, House on King's Visits

JN0707170194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at the Parliament headquarters at noon today members of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee. The meeting was attended by Senator Zayd al-Rifa'i, first vice president of the Senate, and a number of senators.

In press statement after the meeting, al-Rifa'i said Dr. al-Majali reviewed the latest developments in the domestic, Arab, regional, and international arenas. He explained the results of His Majesty King Husayn's successful visit to the United States, as well as his majesty's successful visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Dr. al-Majali also explained in detail Jordan's firm position on the peace process and the developments on all tracks, especially the Jordanian-Israeli track. Al-Majali said the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations will resume soon, and will focus on Jordanian land and water rights.

Al-Rifa'i said the prime minister reviewed Jordan's relations with fraternal Arab countries, noting that these relations are constantly improving. He said that Jordan is eager to coordinate with the Arab brothers, and that this coordination is aimed at reaching just and comprehensive peace that guarantees Arab rights on all levels.

At the end of the meeting, the prime minister answered senators' questions.

The prime minister also received the chairman and members of the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee at the house premises.

in a press statement following the meeting, committee Chairman Deputy 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, said Dr. al-Majali explained the political situation in general, and the results of His Majesty King Husayn's fruitful visit to Washington. He explained that his majesty's talks tackled Jordanian-U.S relations and way of developing them, as well as the underway peace talks.

He said the prime minister explained that his majesty's talks will have fruitful results. He stressed Jordan's commitment to the peace process and a comprehensive solution, and that it will not conclude any unilateral solutions with Israel, or relinquish any of its land and water rights.

Deputy al-Majali said the prime minister reviewed the results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. He said this visit was successful and that inter-Arab relations are constantly improving.

$106 Million Reportedly Extended to Camps Annually

JN0807122394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Minister of State Muhammad al-Dhuwayb has said that the Jordanian Government extends about $106 million annually to the Palestinian refugee camps for education, health, social care, water, sewage, electricity, communication, and other services.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, he said the Jordanian role in the field of extending aid and services to the camps and refugees is important and large and cannot be accurately estimated because the refugees have, since the early beginnings of the Palestine question, merged with the Jordanian society and territory. According to valid laws and in light of the stages of the Palestine question, they became Jordanian citizens, he said.

He added that through its own efforts and in cooperation and coordination with United Nations Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, the government seeks to alleviate the hardships of life in the camps in all domains. He said that had it not been for Jordanian assistance to the refugee camps at various stages, the refugees' living conditions would have been extremely difficult.

Commenting on the transfer of UNRWA headquarters from Vienna to Gaza, the minister said: This is natural and in line with this organization's aims to move to where the problem exists. He said he hoped the UN secretary general's transfer decision would serve as an incentive for more services, especially since the UNRWA plays a basic role in alleviating the refugees' tragedy until a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question is found.

Israel Releases Lebanese Prisoner Captured in 1983

NC0707173694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Text] The Israeli occupation troops at noon today released Lebanese prisoner Jamal 'Adnan Mahrum, who was captured in June 1983 in Ramallah, occupied Palestine. Mahrum declined to give journalists any information on how he was captured. He added that he belongs to the Lebanese National Resistance Front and that he was kept at the Ashkelon prison.

'Extreme Tension' Prevails in South

NC0807053694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] Extreme tension has prevailed since early morning along the contact lines in the south and western al-Biqa' following overnight artillery shelling. Israeli aircraft overflew the south last night, firing flares.

Security sources in western al-Biqa' reported that the occupation forces and border militia have reinforced their forward positions with armored vehicles and troops during the past few hours. The occupation forces brought in four Merkava tanks to the al-'Ayshiyah-al-Rayhan area. Troops, armored vehicles, and jeeps were also deployed. The occupation forces have established mobile checkpoints [words indistinct] in the same area as a precaution against resistance attacks. The border militia has also reinforced its positions in [word indistinct], al-Kassarat, and al-Dallafah with armored vehicles and the occupation forces have installed two artillery batteries consisting of eight cannons in the Kafr Huna area. Observation posts were also established on strategic hills.

Resistance Attacks al-Qantarah Position

NC0807110694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Jul 94

[Text] At midnight, resistance fighters attacked the al-Qantarah position using automatic weapons and rockets. A 30-minute clash ensued between the resistance fighters and the soldiers manning the position. Losses could not be determined because of the shelling of the [word indistinct] area.

The occupation forces subsequently used 120-mm artillery to shell Wadi al-Saluqi, Qabrikha, Tulin, and Majdal Silm. They also raked these areas with machine guns.

In response to movement by Israeli armored vehicles since [words indistinct] in the south, Resistance fighters at 1015 today fired six Katyusha rockets at [words indistinct]. The occupation forces shelled [words indistinct] with rockets [words indistinct].

Sources Reaffirm 'No-Hurry Strategy' on Talks

JN0807052594 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 3 Jul 94 pp 1, 34

[By 'Assaf 'Abbud]

[Text] Damascus—High-level Syrian sources have said that Syria is not in a hurry as far as the peace process is concerned, especially if the objective is to reach an incomplete peace that does not restore its occupied territory. The sources cited Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam as saying that the conflict may continue for 500 years, but Syria will not abandon its goal, which is to achieve a just peace.

The sources stressed that a wide gap still exists between the Syrian and Israeli views on peace and its realization. They added that what is being said about an imminent breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track is unrealistic, especially since Israel has not presented any answers to basic questions concerning withdrawal from the Syrian territory. Delving into details without settling basic matters, the sources noted, will not lead to progress in the peace process.

The Syrian sources said that if Christopher, during his upcoming tour, continues to merely convey Israeli ideas, without playing any effective role in developing and amending these ideas, and unless he carries something that proves it is possible to achieve genuine progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, no progress will be made on this track. In this context, Damascus will adopt a long-term strategy to attain what it wants and to ensure its rights. The sources said that Syria's political moves are based on the fact that arriving at results requires adherence to its demands. Syria believes that patience is necessary, that more than one year may be needed, and that this may drag on beyond 1995. This is because if no progress is achieved this year, then, with both Washington and Tel Aviv entering election years, political peace moves will be frozen and no decisive decisions that could affect the election campaigns of Clinton and Rabin will be adopted.

In this context, diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital have told AL-ITTIHAD that Damascus will not give any specific stand prior to Christopher's tour. Damascus is now reviewing its cards, especially after the Jordanian move. However, this has not changed the Syrian's no-hurry strategy. Damascus believes that circumstances are not ripe for achieving genuine progress on the Syrian-Lebanese track with Israel, especially since there is nothing new in the Israeli and U.S. stands, except for repeated statements on not committing to a clear-cut stand.

Hence, diplomatic sources in Damascus say that what has happened on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks will not necessarily constitute a basis for advancing the Syrian and Lebanese track, for Israel will be using the Jordaniar-Palestinian track as a card to obtain the largest concessions it can from Syria. This will not happen, because Syria considers its stand to be the real basis, and that what has been achieved on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks does not constitute the required comprehensive peace.

The diplomatic sources in Damascus said that the Syrian capital is observing with caution possible imminent arrangements within the U.S. Administration concerning the possible replacement Secretary of State Christopher and Anthony Lake, President Clinton's adviser, because of their unsuccessful management of many foreign crises.

Damascus believes that giving Christopher new cards will be useless in case a decision is made to relieve and replace him, something which would lead to a change in the methods of negotiation, the management of the peace process, and Washington's role as the sponsor of this process. Hence, the same sources say that Christopher's optimistic remarks about his tour are exaggerated, and may be intended to improve his status in the administration.

Concluding their remarks to AL-ITTIHAD, the diplomatic sources referred to statements by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' that despite continuing pressure aimed at harming Syria's decisionmaking, Syria's decision is to adhere to the policy of patience. According to Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the conflict may continue for 500 years, but Damascus will not abandon its goal, which is to achieve a just, comprehensive peace. And as long as Israel insists on refusing to commit itself to withdrawal, progress is impossible, at least in the short run.

Official on Risks Resulting From Jordan-Israel Deal

NC0707203594 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 21

[Report by Hamdi al-Husayni]

[Text] Syrian Development Minister Ranju Dawud [name and title as published] expects some Arab states to face serious economic risks as a result of Jordan's decision to sign separate deals with Israel without coordinating with the other Arab parties.

In exclusive remarks to ROSE AL-YUSUF, he said that Israel seeks to use these separate deals to cause a rift in the Arab front, because it has found difficulties in facing a collective Arab position. He ruled out the possibility of concluding a Syrian- Israeli agreement at the present time, especially since Israel refuses to recognize Security Council Resolution 242 and rejects a full and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Golan. He noted that Syria will not sign any agreement that does not include a comprehensive settlement of all the Arab-Israeli differences.

The Syrian official stressed that Syria still adheres to the laws and systems of socialism, out of its faith in the need

for the state to protect low-income people. In the meantime, he added, the government has embarked on a wide-ranging process of improving the performance of the public sector and enacting new laws permitting the private sector to operate in limited fields.

'Democratic Arab Union' Leader on New Party's Aims

PM0707154094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with Ghassan 'Uthman, secretary general of the Democratic Arab Union party, by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] A new party has entered political life in Syria to consolidate political pluralism in the country. Ghassan 'Uthman, secretary general of the Democratic Arab Union [DAU] party [hizb al-ittihad al-'arabi al-dimuqrati], says that his party will perform its activities alongside the other seven parties, which all operate within the framework of a greater political and leading institution, that is the National Progressive Front under President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] What are the DAU party's aspirations?

['Uthman] The DAU party in Syria is a pan-Arab, mass, democratic, front party that believes in socialist pan-Arab thinking. It adopts the national action charter as its guide. It also considers Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's experiment, with its general aims and pan-Arab and progressive constants, to be the foundation of its ideological and theoretical principles. It believes that the pan-Arab policr led by President Hafiz al-Asad represents the Arab masses' aspirations, and that the National Progressive Front under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is a brilliant achievement which could not have been born had it not been for the historic leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. The party also applies central democracy, as all leaderships are elected from the grassroots to the top, and supervision and guidance is conducted from the top to the grassroots. Collective leadership is the basis in partisan and leadership action. The party also struggles for the sake of achieving the Arab nation's aims in terms of freedom, socialism, and Arab unity. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] What will be your party's role in the present stage?

['Uthman] The duties laid on the members' shoulders are great, most importantly to reactivate the role of partisan institutions and to work to rectify them and study and absorb the party's thinking and policy. That can be dome through continuous efforts in order to gain experience, develop awareness, and advance ideologically, politically, and organizationally; to contribute seriously to organizing and educating the members; to work to develop the party, serve the masses, deal with their issues, identify their problems, and work earnestly to solve them; and to exercise self-criticism. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] What is your position on the peace negotiations?

['Uthman] When Syria agreed to participate in the peace negotiations through the Madrid conference, it stressed its adherence to the resolutions of international legitimacy—which means full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for a comprehensive peace. This is what President Hafiz al-Asad stressed at the Geneva summit. Our party strongly supports the wise and courageous policy pursued by President al-Asad, which is based on the Arab nation's national and pan-Arab constants.

[Al-Ustuwani] Does Syria's and Israel's failure to reach a peace agreement as a result of Israel's intransigent policy means war?

['Uthman] Israel cannot keep the land, nor can it evade the requirements of peace. We refuse to capitulate, and we are determined to liberate the land. The international community does not sanction the occupation of others' territory by force. Not a single man in Syria accepts capitulation.

[Al-Ustuwani] Do you believe the United States is serious with regard to the peace process?

['Uthman] Israel is still continuing its intransigence and evasion. It wants to waste time. We hope that the United States will play an influential role in reactivating the peace process, on the grounds that it is a cosponsor of the peace conference. [passage omitted]

[Al-Ustuwani] Will you be represented in the next People's Assembly, and have you presented a certain program?

['Uthman] Our party will participate in the next People's Assembly elections. And we are happy to participate in national action through the legislative, executive, and unionist institutions. We will play a constructive role in developing the democratic march within the framework of our commitment to joint action, whose foundations the progressive national front laid. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Returns From Cairo Visit

JN0807073994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 7 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this evening returned to Damascus from Cairo after leading the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee. During his stay in Cairo, al-Zu'bi met with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

India

Prime Minister Rao Visits Russia, Signs Accords

Seeks Cooperation in 'New World Order'

BK0107060094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, have said that friendship and cooperation between the two countries can contribute substantially to the shaping of the new world order. Speaking at a banquet given in his honor by the Russian president in Moscow last night, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the world must unitedly and with determination face the challenges of terrorism, religious fundamentalism, and drug trafficking that threaten the stability and well-being of states. He pointed out that economic development, eradication of poverty, and reduction of global inequality are indispensable elements in the new world order. The prime minister said the two countries' internal stability, territorial integrity, and commitment to democratic values constitute a key factor to global peace.

The two leaders in their speeches referred to the economic changes under way in their countries. Describing his country's climate as conducive for foreign investments, President Yeltsin said it offers good opportunities for investment by Indians.

Yesterday, Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Yeltsin signed two political agreements called the Moscow Declarations on promotion of interests of pluralistic countries. The declarations also reiterated that military and technical cooperation between New Delhi and Moscow is not aimed against any third country. The two sides also decided to set up an Indo-Russian aviation company for servicing and maintenance of aircrafts of Russian origin in India and third countries.

Terms Visit 'Very Satisfactory'

BK0307082794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] The prime minister has described the Moscow Declaration as a unique document signed by two sovereign countries to lay down the principles for safeguarding pluralistic states. Talking to newsmen on board the special aircraft carrying him back to Delhi from Moscow, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the declaration warns about the growing threats to such states from religious extremism, terrorism, and separatism. Our correspondent Kajal Das reports that outlining the salient features of the declaration the prime minister said the peoples of India and Russia have already exercized their right of self-determination. He described his four-day visit to Russia as very satisfactory and said he had wide-ranging discussions with President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. He said the two sides agreed to correct the declaration in bilateral relations. Referring to the flagging trade turnover between India and Russia, Mr. Rao said the private sectors of both the countries should be involved in a big way to boost bilateral trade. He also stressed the need for mutually agreed transparent and predictable mechanism for overseeing economic relations. He said the problem of spares for defense equipment of Soviet origin came up for discussion, and the two sides agreed to resolve this in the best possible manner. The two countries also agreed to work on the upgradation of MiG-21 aircraft. The prime minister said the agreements signed during his visit will certainly provide further momentum to bilateral relationship and open up avenues for future cooperation.

The prime minister has since returned to New Delhi. Mr. Rao was received at the airport by the civil supplies minister, Mr. A.K. Anthony; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia; and the lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr. P.K. Dubey; and senior officials.

At Moscow Airport, he was seen off by the Russian prime minister, Mr. Chernomyrdin, and other dignitaries. Before emplaning, he was presented a guard of honor by the contingents of Russia's three services. During his four-day hectic tour, the prime minister and President Yeltsin signed the Moscow Declaration on promoting the interests of pluralistic countries reflecting the aspirations of the peoples of the two nations. Several other agreements including one on Indo-Russian joint aviation venture was also signed.

Details Topics of Discussion

BK0307092494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Russia has expressed its keenness to sell arms to India. In an interview with the news agency ITAR-TASS, the deputy prime minister, Yuriy Yarov, said that Moscow does not intend to surrender its positions in its traditional arms market like India. India has imported and will continue to import Russian-made weapons and that both the countries have agreed in principle on this important aspect, he added.

As reported earlier, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, had stated yesterday the problem of spares for the defense equipment of Soviet origin came up for discussion during his Moscow visit. The two sides agreed to resolve this in the best possible manner. Mr. Narasimha Rao was talking to newspersons on board the special aircraft carrying him back to Delhi from Moscow. He said the two countries also agreed to work on the upgradation of the MiG-21 aircraft. Mr. Rao expressed satisfaction at the outcome of his four-day visit to Russia. The prime minister described the Moscow Declaration as a unique document which warns about the growing threats to pluralistic states from religious extremism, terrorism, and separatism.

Commentaries View Results of Ra 's Russia Visit

Commentary on Declarations Signed

BK0107065594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Commentary by Kajal Das]

[Text] Long after Prime Minister Narasimha Rao goes back to Delhi after his completing his four-day visit to Moscow, political analysts will continue to deliberate on the declarations he signed with President Boris Yeltsin. The other agreements, though important in their respective fields, were not entirely unexpected. But issues the declarations raised are so immediate in nature and affects so many lives and minds across so many countries that people are bound to wonder at the political sagacity and maturity of the two leaders.

The Moscow Declarations on pluralistic states and intensifying cooperation between India and Russia are important because of the unequivocal manner in which they spell out the problems facing two of the largest multiethnic, multilingual, and multireligious states. The two pluralistic societies groping with new political and economic realities are facing similar challenges of religious fundamentalism, transborder terrorism, and separatism and what the documents call aggressive nationalism. The allusions are obvious both from the context of domestic, as well as, international concerns of the two countries and without mincing words the declarations underline the need for peace and stability in the area between the borders of India and Russia. Can there be a more urgent need for Moscow and New Delhi to come closer? No doubt, immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia which emerged as a successor state started looking westward. But in retrospect, it looks more like reflex action rather than anything born out of considered policy evaluation. Come what may, Russia cannot afford to ignore Asia and this has become evident in Moscow's recent efforts to woo the three Asian giants—namely India, China, and Japan. From this point of view also Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's Russia visit could not have come at a more opportune moment.

The other agreements falling within the broad framework of cooperation spelt out in the declarations will, no doubt, go a long way in further cementing bilateral ties. But, above all, this visit would be remembered for the declarations which put Moscow and New Delhi on the same wavelength. By asserting that every pluralistic society has as much right to live as anyone else, they reminded the West that human rights cannot be their prerogative alone.

Article Compares U.S., Russian Visits

BK0407091694 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 1 Jul 94 p 9

[Article by Ajoy Bose: "Rao's Moscow Visit"]

[Text] There could not be a greater contrast between the Prime Minister, Mr P V Narasimha Rao's visit to Washington in May and his present trip to Moscow. The US visit generated fierce controversy well before it even started. Opposition MPs and sections of the media wanted Mr Rao to call off the visit and when he insisted on going accused him of compromising national interests to oblige Washington. Others felt that he had to go to retrieve Indo-US relations.

During the visit, every word said by the Prime Minister and American leaders he met were examined through a magnifying glass. His meeting with businessmen in Houston was described as significant, the address to the joint session of the US Congress as brilliant but poorly attended and there was endless media speculation on the nuances of the Rao-Clinton summit and the Press conference afterwards. In short, the visit to Washington was read and interpreted in capital letters.

Mr Rao's trip to Moscow this week, on the other hand, has hardly generated any media interest and no excitement whatsoever in political circles. The media run-up to the Russian visit has not extended beyond a mere background of bilateral ties and not a single Opposition leader has even thought it important enough to comment on the trip.

It is most likely that the same public apathy would continue during the Prime Minister's trip this week and apart from token headlines, it would not cause even a fraction of the stir raised by his visit to the United States.

Yet, despite the sharp contrast between the interest and controversy aroused by Mr Rao's US visit and the lack of it towards his mission to Russia, it in no way reflects the ground realities of New Delhi's relations with Washington and Moscow. There is good reason to believe that India needs Russia as much as the United States, nor is there any dearth of contentious issues between South Block and the rulers of Kremlin .

For instance, the enormous importance of defence and trade ties between India and Russia can hardly be overemphasised. A huge component of the armed forces in this country is totally dependent on Russian (formally [preceding word as published] Soviet) military equipment and their replenishment and maintenance is vital for the defence preparedness of this country.

Apart from the various defence agreements signed by Mr Rao during his visit, his discussions with the Russian President, Mr Boris Yeltsin, and more importantly, the Defence Minister, Mr Pavel Grachev, is likely to set the tone for even more wide-ranging military cooperation between the two countries than before. It is needless to point out that compared to Indo-Russian defence ties those with the United States fades into insignificance.

As for bilateral trade, the opportunities as well as problems between India and Russia in this field are gigantic in scale. The fact that this country is required to pay Russia a colossal sum of Rs 3000 crore every year in the

shape of imported commodities for the liquidation of debt owed to the erstwhile Soviet Government gives some idea of the extraordinary dimensions of the trade relationship between New Delhi and Moscow.

President Yeltsin's visit to India last year did pave the way for an arrangement to phase out this outstanding debt as well as a new rupee-rouble agreement but huge snags have arisen in their implementation. There are serious differences between the two countries on the agreement and whether Mr Rao's visit succeeds or fails to resolve them is crucial to the economy of both.

It is the importance of these fundamental issues involved between India and Russia and their articulation during the Prime Minister's Moscow trip, that have not really been highlighted although matters perhaps of less import were blown out of proportion during his visit to the United States. Clearly, relations with Washington are seen in this country through quite a different prism than those with Moscow.

All of which goes to show that public perceptions of foreign policy is often shaped more by atmospherics rather than substance. Mr Rao's US trip, for instance, was preceded by a lengthy war of words between the State Department and South Block giving the impression that relations between the two countries had reached a point of no return.

The patronising and interventionist nature of statements emanating from Washington underlined particularly by the provocative remarks made by the controversial US Assistant Secretary Ms Robin Raphel tended to exaggerate the real differences or commonalities between India and the United States. Not surprisingly, the consequent media publicity gave bilateral ties a larger than life dimension which inevitably placed it under constant public limelight. Relations between New Delhi and Moscow have followed quite a different course in the past few years. Although there was initial shock and confusion here over the sudden and dramatic collapse of the Soviet Union, no serious rupture between the two countries followed .

Even after Moscow went back on the cryogenic rocket deal after US pressures, the villain of the piece remained Washington and political and media circles showed remarkable understanding of Russia's position. This has been helped no doubt by the sober statements made by Russian leaders and officials on various issues concerning India.

A good example is the nuclear non-proliferation issue on which Moscow has virtually identical views to Washington. Yet, while US officials constantly raise hackles in this country by appearing to dictate the Indian security agenda, the Russians have been scrupulously diplomatic in keeping public silence but have been privately urging India to accept a regional non-proliferation agreement.

The relative public perceptions in this country about the United States and Russia have also played a crucial role in determining attitudes in India to the two countries. Because of the past two decades of a perceived tilt in Washington towards Pakistan, most Indians are more than ready to believe that the intentions of the United States towards this are suspect.

There is, on the other hand, continued goodwill towards Russia despite the collapse of the Soviet regime. Most people feel that the Russian leadership, if given half a chance by the Americans, would still root for India and the many difference's between Moscow and New Delhi are usually given the benefit of doubt. Mr Rao, therefore, is likely to lose much sleep over his Moscow trip in terms of public opinion in this country although ironically his mission to Moscow may be far more problematic than that to the United States.

Commentary Views Outcome

BK0407115494 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Commentary by S.C. Bhutt]

[Text] It is no secret that India and the former Soviet Union had a special relationship. The dissolution of the mighty Soviet Union not only ended the bipolar system in world affairs, but also special ties between New Delhi and Moscow. For the past three years the two have carried on the in the shadow of the [word indistinct], but gradually things began to take a turn for the better. As Russia, the biggest of the successor to the USSR, gained more internal strength and began to sort out its problems with the only superpower left in the world, the United States, the ties between India and Russia also looked set for improvement. Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India in January 1993 paved the way for this improvement, but the visit to Moscow by the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, last week put the relationship on a special pedestal. The old Hindi-Russian Bhai-Bhai spirit or Indians and Russians are brothers slogan coined spontaneously during the heyday of India-Soviet friendship may or may not have returned, but the relationship has assumed special significance.

As many as 11 accords were signed between the two nations during Mr. Rao's Moscow trip. The most important was the Moscow Declaration and the agreement on furthering bilateral cooperation and relations. An important defense deal was the accord on setting up a joint venture in India to service Russian fighter aircraft with the Indian Air Force and the air forces of several other nations. The fifty-fifty company—India-Russian Aviation Private Limited—will be a $400 million affair. What is more the Russians have agreed to let India take up a job which normally it would like to perform itself. There are other agreements on strengthening bilateral ties and they are important. Already in space and other areas, the two countries are closely cooperating with each other and the new agreement will strengthen their cooperation, but the Moscow Declaration has taken the ties to a new higher level. In essence, it asks the world to take

notice of the multiethnic and multireligious societies like those of India and Russia and warned all concerned not to create problems for them by interference in the name of human rights and similar issues. Respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries have been stressed. The promoters of trans-border terrorism in Pakistan have also been warned without naming them. Religious fundamentalism, yet another plank of Pakistan's foreign policy, has been told off in no uncertain terms.

After the dissolution of the USSR, Russia mired in financial crisis looked toward West for restructuring its economy. However, now that teething troubles had been overcome and honeymoon with West, especially the United States, seems to be over, Moscow has been reassessing its relations with its friends of Soviet days. The stand taken by Russia recently in Korean crisis against the wishes of the United States has been a very significant in reminding its former position in the world affairs. Now for the first time, Moscow has told everyone concerned, and India is a party to it, the noninterference was an important principle and human rights must not be made an excuse for interference in other's affairs. This is something Russia has said for the first time and India has been saying it differently, but this time India said it emphatically. In company of President Yeltsin, Mr. Rao has put the issue beyond doubt. It was futile to expect that a great like nation like Russia would play second fiddle to Washington for long. India was chafing at the U.S. pressures. Now the pressures have eased, but the Rao's visit to Moscow has strengthened Indian resolve to stand up to such pressures and tell American stooges like Pakistan, where they get off. India wants peace and good will to prevails and seeks friendly ties with the United States also. On economic matters, there has been excellent cooperation. India's ties with one country are not directed against any other. In that context, India-Russian ties can prove good for the rest of the world too.

Russia Agrees To Help Upgrade MiG-21 Fleet

BK3006020094 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 22 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] Indian MiG-21s are to be equipped with new generation air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles and modern digital avionics as part of the major upgrade deal concluded with Russia last month.

The modernisation pact for some 170 MiG-21 fighters would make the aircraft combat-worthy well into the next century, senior officials of the Mikoyan Design Bureau of Russia told an international aviation weekly.

Designated the MiG-21-93, the upgraded fighters are to be redesigned to carry state-of-the-art weapons delivery systems, radars, advanced avionics and navigation systems, and new generation air-to-air, beyond visual range missiles.

In a deal designed to incorporate the best possible, India has asked Mikoyan to source some key systems, mostly avionics, from the west, Mr Aleksandr Manucharov, MiG-21 upgrade programme manager, told Flight International.

Defence sources here, declaring the deal would give India "its money's worth", say the decision to upgrade the robust MiG-21 BIS should have been taken a long time ago. They cite four chief reasons as to why an upgrade was a "must".

For one thing, new aircraft are very expensive, working out to almost 10 times the price of an upgrade. On the other hand, equipping the MiG-21 BIS with advanced avionics and armament would restore their front-line status, at a lower cost.

With the delay in the country's light combat aircraft (LCA) programme, an upgraded MiG-21 could fill the gap.

A large number of aircraft to be modernised have seen under 10 years of service and have several more years to go.

And last of all, the country has the means and capability to maintain these aircraft in terms of spares availability and repair or overhaul facilities.

"The upgrade programme would not only help save tax payers' money but also add punch to the existing fleet," they say.

The Russian MiG-21-93 was given an airing at the Avia India air show in Bangalore in December 1993. The core of its new weapons-control system is the phazotron kopyo radar, a derivative of the zhuk installed on the MiG-29m. Incorporating the vital look-up look-down mode, the kopyo has better search and track capability.

Proposal To Build Soviet 'Kilo' Subs Revived

BK0107143094 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 28 Jun 94 p 12

[Text] NEW DELHI - A proposal to build the Soviet Kilo class of submarines has been resurrected, as the Indian navy struggles to retain its rapidly dwindling undersurface fleet.

Plans to manufacture the reliable Kilo class sub under licence have been revived following improved defence cooperation with Russia. The matter is expected to be discussed at length in the series of exchanges planned after the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow.

India which was the first country to acquire the Kilo class of boats beginning April 1986 had originally intended to manufacture them under licence.

While the design drawings have been held, the Soviets were at, that stage, reluctant to transfer the technology. India, turned towards the West German firm HDW

which was prepared to transfer technology for the sophisticated submarine-to-submarine killer (SSK) boats.

In turning towards the tested Kilo class (Type 877), the Navy forced by a tight-fisted Government, is lurching from one path to the other. The assembly-line for the modern submarine-to-submarine killer (SSK) Shishumar class (Type 1500) has shut down following the expiry of the licence from HDW.

The fourth sub, in this class was commissioned in May this year by the Prime Minister, bringing to a pre-mature end the country's first and largely successful indigenous submarine manufacture programme.

The Government's decision to scale down the HDW complement of subs from the original six to four in the wake of the kickbacks scandal has destroyed the navy's plan to transform its submarine arm into a modern and silent killer system.

Worse, the infrastructure and expertise built by Mazgaon Docks in turning India into the 14th nation to manufacture subs has been wasted, after building just two boats.

In desperation, the navy has continued flogging the old Foxtrot class of subs, whose hull is derived from World War II German design. Inducted into the navy from 1968 onwards, three of these boats are already out of service.

The first one, Kanderi was paid off in 1991 and is now being cannibalised for spares; the second, Kalveri went off a year later and now two more are unlikely to return to sea.

At any given point of time only three of the Foxtrot class are operational and are used mostly for training. The diving depth (250m) stands sharply reduced as the boats get on, in years.

The navy's ultimate hope is the manufacture of a nuclear propelled submarine, but there is no word yet of its precise status. Research and development for the nuclear sub has been on since the eighties under the Advanced Technology vessel project being pursued by the DRDO [Defense Research Development Organization].

So far the nuclear reactor facility has not been tested.

In 1988 the Navy had leased from the Soviet Union the nuclear- powered sub Chakra. The lease ran out at the end of three years, and was not renewed. The boat returned to Vladivostok in January 1991.

The nuclear-powered sub project, according to some experts has been given top priority, higher than even the aircraft carrier project. The indigenous air defence ship project, while being lobbied hard by the navy is hanging fire in the Union Cabinet since last year.

Exports to Russia To Resume on Free Exchange Rate

BK3006024694 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 20 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] India has agreed to resume exports to Russia on a free foreign exchange rate, which will lead to total elimination of the erstwhile rupee-ruble rate.

Stating this at a press conference here on Sunday, the Union commerce minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, said that an agreement has been reached to this effect recently when the deputy prime minister of Russia and a trade delegation visited his ministry.

He also said that the country has agreed to repay all its loans to Russia. The first instalment of around Rs [rupees] 36,000 crore will be cleared in the first ten years and the remaining amount will be paid over a period of 50 years.

The repayment will be done through exports of goods like tea, tobacco and leather. The exact calculation of the total debt in dollar terms is yet to be ascertained.

On the sugar issue, the minister said that STC [State Trading Corporation] and MMTC [Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation] had so far imported 626,000 tonnes of sugar and emphasised that state agencies no longer need to import the commodity as the government has allowed import through the open general licence (OGL).

The minister also ruled out possibility of any further government takeover of sick jute mills and nationalisation of the industry and said that the private sector had to fight for the jute industry's revival.

Mr Mukherjee said that the government had decided to withdraw international price disbursal scheme for engineering exports from next year. The scheme has been revised this year on persistent demand from industry and the government had stopped the normal subsidy of Rs 200 crore. The beneficiaries could, however, collect the same amount through other means in the new policy.

Stating that three years of the Rao government has brought stability in both political and economic spheres, the commerce minister said the major successes of the government include rise in forex [foreign exchange] reserves at $15 billion and export growth at 20 per cent

On a question about debt repayment procedure, the commerce minister said that interest payment and principal repayment constituted 24 per cent of the country's total earnings through exports.

He said that 24 per cent of the country's exports earning went for debt servicing.

He also stressed that the trade gap had narrowed from $3.5 billion to $1 billion in this period although the PSU [Public Sector Units] outlay in the Eighth Five-Year Plan has been hiked to Rs 434,000 crore from Rs 180,000

crore in the Seventh Plan. This jump was the highest-ever and the trend was similar in the case of the outlay for rural development that had gone up four times.

Although, there were problems regarding double digit inflation Mr Mukherjee said that with stabilisation of RBI's [Reserve Bank of India] new slack season credit policy coupled with good monsoon and kharif [autumn] prospects, inflation would come down to 8 per cent by the year-end. "Such seasonal changes do occur in a growing economy and the government is confident that the rate will climbdown," he said.

He said that the share markets were also picking up on sustained investment of foreign institutional investors with $2 billion having already entering the markets.

He said that the future of the capital markets was sound and the growth was a manifestation of the changed economic scenario under the Rao government.

Negotiations for Russian Nuclear Plant 'Promising'

BK0507130694 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Bombay, July 5 (AFP)—Negotiations between India and Russia on building an atomic power plant in southern India are at an advanced stage, the head of the state-owned nuclear power corporation said Tuesday.

"We are actually revising an old proposal that had been with the former Soviet Union," Samir Chatterjee, managing director of India's Nuclear Power Corp., told AFP here.

Chatterjee said the Russian Government has offered credit in terms of services and components for the project.

"I went to Russia recently for talks on this," he said. "Negotiations are on... It looks promising."

"We are now discussing the repayment terms and other details," he added.

If the deal goes through it would be the first Indo-Russian joint venture in nuclear power generation. It calls for building two reactors capable of generating 1,000-megawatts each in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Chatterjee said the plant would have pressurised water reactors and would use Russian fuel supplied under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

It would be India's third atomic power plant built with foreign collaboration and the third one to use fuel under IAEA safeguards.

The first was the Tarapur Atomic Power Station built in the western state of Maharashtra in 1969 by General Electric of the United States.

The second was the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant begun in collaboration with the Canadian Atomic Energy Agency and commissioned in 1974.

Chatterjee said the Canadians pulled out after India performed a nuclear test in the northern deserts of Pokhran two decades ago.

India presently has nine nuclear reactors generating power and four of these—two each in Tarapur and Rajasthan— operate under IAEA inspection.

India built three other atomic power plants on its own.

The Tarapur complex, India's oldest nuclear facility, used fuel supplied by the United States for some time. France later stepped in and supplied uranium until October of last year when the agreement ended.

Chatterjee said Tarapur did not have any immediate fuel problems.

"We are trying to run it with a mix of low enriched uranium and a mixed oxide fuel. There should be no fuel problems over the next seven or eight years," he said.

Atomic energy accounts for nearly three percent of India's power generation.

Russia Said To Urge Indian Role in Tajikistan

BK0307140794 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 30 Jun 94 p 6

[Report by Shubha Singh]

[Text] In its New Military Doctrine Russia has asserted that the borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) are to be regarded as the borders of Russian security interests. Moscow's pronouncement that it considers the stability of the CIS states to be of paramount importance, provides an indication of how strong are its interests in the current situation in Tajikistan.

The Tajik situation, being a matter of special importance to Russia it is likely that the Russians will raise the subject during Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's visit to Moscow. Last month Moscow tried to impress upon New Delhi that it should display a much more active interest in Tajikistan when Russian first Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin visited New Delhi on his way back from Dushanbe and Islamabad.

The Indian side would be in a position to give its own assessment of the situation in the strife torn country based on the impressions gathered during Minister of State for External Affairs Mr Salman Khursheed's visit to Dushanbe, the Tajik capital earlier this month. Mr Khursheed's visit was the first political level visit from India to Dushanbe after the CIS came into being.

Mr Khursheed had wide ranging discussions with the top leadership in Tajikistan, including a meeting with President Imamali Rakhmanov, Prime Minister Samadov and Foreign Minister Alimov. He emphasised in his

discussions that India was seriously concerned about the situation in Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan border in particular.

Mr Adamishin, in his meetings in New Delhi said that Russia would support India's presence among the group of observers at the United Nations sponsored talks between the Tajik groups. Two round of talks have already taken place, the first round in Moscow in April and the recent one in Tehran between the Tajik government and the dissident factions, a coalition of Islamic and liberal groups.

The other official observers in the talks are Russia, Pakistan, and Iran and it is obvious that Moscow would be interested in India joining in as an observer to serve as a counterbalance to the two other observers. The presence of Russian and CIS troops along the Tajik-Afghan border sealing off the easy access the rebels had. The sealing of the border helped create the conditions for the UN facilitated talks to begin.

At the end of the Tehran round of talks earlier this week, both Tajik government and opposition leaders agreed to support a ceasefire and begin the process of national reconciliation. An agreement which is a step towards a peaceful solution of the two year old Tajik strife though no timetable was set for the implementation of the agreement on a ceasefire.

The general feeling in New Delhi is that it would be willing to join the peace talks only if the Tajiks are keen to include India among the observers. But the indications are that the Tajiks feel that with the exception of Russia, all the other observers are mere spectators.

According to Mr Khursheed the Rakhmonov Government seemed to be more firmly settled in Dushanbe. It was decided that Dushanbe and New Delhi would remain in close touch on the talks it is holding with the rebel groups.

The role of the observers is a limited one during the talks and the consultations between Dushanbe and New Delhi on the talks would be a first step in greater involvement in the affairs of the region. New Delhi has opened a mission in Dushanbe some weeks ago under a charge d' affaires which would help to maintain the contacts.

New Delhi would want to understand Russia's long term views on the regional scenario, especially the security aspect as it is emerging presently.

The Russians have given a clear signal to the West that it intends to be the peace keeper in the CIS (except the Baltic republics) and would also exercise the right to protect the human rights of ethnic Russians who live in the Central Asian Republics.

It is the Tajik situation which has brought home to Moscow most acutely, the effects of external intervention sponsoring dissident and violent activities in independent states.

The consequences of the growing spread of fundamentalism in the Central Asian region is also a matter of grave concern to Moscow. The signs of the unrest it spawns are evident in much of that area.

For India the Tajik situation is also a matter of immense strategic importance, especially since the influx of Afghan and other mercenaries into Kashmir which has created another dimension to the problem of militancy in the state. Establishing regular contact with Tajikistan is a matter which requires greater attention in India.

Iran

Anniversary of U.S. Downing of Airbus Marked

Moqtada'i Urges Investigation

LD0307103694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the tragedy of the downing of the Iranian passenger plane in the Persian Gulf [by USS Vincennes], Supreme Court Head Morteza Moqtada'i once again called on international legal circles and the International Air Transport Association to investigate the case, which is a clear violation of international and aviation rules and regulations, and report the perpetrators of the crime to the world.

Commentary on Anniversary

LD0307114094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0946 GMT 3 Jul 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Today, 3 July, is the sixth anniversary of the disastrous downing of an Islamic Republic of Iran airbus over the waters of the Persian Gulf. As a result of a criminal act by the American warship Vincennes, 290 innocent people—mostly women and children—lost their lives.

The investigation into that horrific disaster, despite the obvious way the disaster occurred, has not come to any decisive conclusions after six years have passed. Despite the American claims that the Vincennes commander made a mistake in identifying the airliner, all indications show that at the moment the incident took place the well-equipped American warship could quite well distinguish an airliner from a warplane.

Taking into account the fact that no military plane was flying at that moment and the fact that the Iranian airliner was following a course in a civilian air corridor, the American military personnel knew exactly that they were aiming at a climbing airliner. Nevertheless, and despite Iran's protest, Iran's comprehensive case, which

has been submitted to the International Court, is still open because of American objection to the court's competence.

At the same time the sensitivity shown by international forums toward similar incidents causes questions to be raised. While those forums take a great deal of interest in cases such as the Lockerbie incident they fail to show any sensitivity to a similar case such as the downing of the Iranian airliner. That clearly shows that Western interests, especially America's, determine the importance of a case from their point of view; for example, the UN Security Council refrained from even condemning America for downing the Iranian airliner and limited itself to a verbal expression of regret. Naturally an approach toward anti-human acts which is one- sided and prejudiced to such an extent results in a general loss of confidence in international establishments, and a repetition of such acts will shake the foundations of international organizations. That is why bitter realities such as the slaughter of the Muslim people of Hebron in Abraham's mosque, repeated attacks against southern Lebanon, and ethnic massacres in Bosnia too are by their nature on the same level as atrocities such as the downing of the Iranian airliner; generally speaking, they demonstrate the indifference of the West toward the rights of human beings [hoquq-e ensanha] and the double standard of international organizations.

Official: Shows No Respect for Rights

LD0307204394 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas (Hormozgan), July 3, IRNA—Roads and Transportation Minister Akbar Torkan said here today that the downing of the Iranian passenger plane by the American Navy over the territorial waters of Iran this day in 1988 will forever be remembered as proof of Washington's disrespect to human rights.

Torkan was speaking to a group of officials in commemoration of the 290 unsuspecting passengers and crew of Iran Air Flight 655 who lost their lives when the Airbus-300 on its regular flight to Dubai was hit by two missiles fired by the USS Vincennes moments after it took off from Bandar-e 'Abbas air, and crashed in Persian Gulf waters.

He said the person responsible for the killing of those people (Will Rogers), was awarded by the U.S. Government in acknowledgement of his unmanly act which was "sufficient proof for the premeditation and malicious intention of the Americans."

The minister reminded that even a radar system as primitive and as unsophisticated as the one owned by Iran is readily capable of distinguishing between civilian and non-civilian planes, and that on that basis the U.S. claim that the hitting of the Iranian plane was accidental did not hold water.

He said it is beyond the expectation of any sound mind to believe that the radar on a warship as sophisticated as that of the Vincennes might have confused Iran Air's Airbus with that of warplane.

A group of government officials and bereaved families of the passengers and crew members of the plane in addition to local and international reporters were present in the ceremony at which the waters where the plane crashed near the Iranian island of Hengam were strewn with flowers.

Local and international aviation experts said after the incident that the Airbus with 290 persons on board was flying through its established air corridor when it was downed by missiles, and noted that there was no evidence whatsoever why the radar of the Vincennes might have mistaken her for a hostile warplane.

It is also worth noting that the Vincennes was in Iran's territorial waters from where its dastard captain ordered the downing of the passenger plane.

U.S. Accused of Hampering Justice

LD0307201394 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki said here Sunday [3 July] that the U.S. continues to challenge the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice at The Hague for taking up Iran's litigation states for its downing of the Iranian Airbus over Persian Gulf waters this day in 1988. [sentence as received] He called on responsible international circles to end Washington's hampering of the action by Iran so that justice would prevail.

All 290 passengers and crew on board were killed when Iran Air Flight 655 was downed by the USS Vincennes, moments after the plane had taken off for Dubai from Bandar-e 'Abbas airport.

Managing director of Iran Air Hassan Shafti, meanwhile, said Washington has challenged the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice with the idea of preventing the facts of its malicious missiling down of the passenger plane becoming known to the world.

He said far from believing that the U.S. is not to blame for the killing of passengers on board the Iranian plane today the world is even more curious to find out facts about that incident than it was this day in 1988.

Egyptian 'Repression' of 'Islamists' Deplored

NC0307200694 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Jun 94 p 16

[Political commentary: "Egypt—Futile Talks"]

[Text] In its latest move to intensify its repression of the Islamic movements in the country, the Egyptian Government has taken steps to initiate talks with some

Egyptian political groups. This unprecedented move on the part of the Egyptian Government is being construed by the intelligentsia as a step toward isolating the Islamists and launching multipronged attacks against them.

In other words, Cairo is seeking to create a coalition among the various political and secular groups to bring the common viewpoints of these groups closer together. In this manner, it wishes to initiate a new era of combating the Islamists.

Due to the plethora of security problems that it is encountering, and because of its political weakness, the Egyptian regime is not able to continue the unilateral campaign against the revolutionary Muslims of the country. It can therefore be surmised that the Egyptian regime is seeking to induct the various lay groups and factions of the country into the vortex of the campaign against the Islamists so that, in this manner, it can not only (according to its own calculations) intensify the anti-Islamist campaign, but also project it as a more "popular" one!

Even though the first step by the Egyptian Government for the coalition of political groups against the Egyptian strugglers faced a defeat at the "government-sponsored session" because of the opposition of some major and important factions, including the Muslim Brotherhood, it can be stressed that this action by the Egyptian Government can be interpreted as its weakness in confronting the Islamists and the defeat of its "military measures" in the face of the realities prevalent in Egyptian society today.

The convocation of the cosmetic sessions under government control will be doomed to failure as long as the Egyptian echelons do not realize the socio-political realities in the country.

Radio Views Turkish Parliamentarians' Visit to Iraq

LD0207204294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Turkey's parliamentary team, comprising six representatives of the People's Democratic Social Party, PDSP, which had travelled to Baghdad at the invitation of the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, returned to Ankara last Friday.

It is noteworthy that the visit of the parliamentary team of the PDSP, due to its being coalition partner in the government of Turkish Prime Minister Tensu Ciller, is of special significance. It appears that in the talks held by the two sides bilateral relations, especially withdrawal of the oil present in the Iraqi pipeline to Turkey, were discussed. In the same connection, Ankara has for quite some time embarked—with the agreement of Baghdad—on extensive diplomatic activities for the removal and sale of 12 million barrels of oil present in the pipeline. Turkish officials, who contend that the pipeline is getting worn out due to presence of oil in it, are trying to convince the UN Security Council members that such a measure does not violate the Council resolutions. In this regard, Turkish deputy foreign minister, who returned home from Baghdad last June 26th, announced that the income from the sale of the oil present in the Iraqi-Turkey pipeline will be transferred to a special account. A part of this money will be used on making payments to the fund set up for those who have suffered damages due to the Persian Gulf war. And another part of the sale proceeds will be spent on importing medicine and foodstuff into Iraq from Turkey.

Meanwhile political observers believe that such measure by Ankara, before anything else, are aimed at consolidating that country's position in Iraq's future economy. It is worth mentioning that countries exporting industrial goods and military equipment consider the Iraqi market as quite significant. In this connection, they rely on the oil revenues of Iraq, whose government is seeking economic and military ambitions. It is due to the same reason that the Western companies as well as Turkey, despite the fact that the Iraqi sanctions continue, are trying to secure their future in the post-sanction period. French, German, Italian, British, and even the American companies that strongly oppose the lifting of the sanctions have concluded several contracts with Iraq by undertaking trips to Baghdad. Experts believe that by concluding these agreements the Iraqi regime is trying to increase its pressure over those opposing the lifting of the sanctions, but at the same time the economic and political future of Iraq will be threatened with a lot more dependence. This is so because the Western governments look at the post-sanction Iraq as a market from which they should have as large a chip as possible.

TV Chief on Confronting 'Western Cultural Onslaught'

LD0307110094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] 'Ali Larijani, the head of the Voice and Vision, stressed the need for the utilization of cultural facilities and advanced audio-visual technology to confront the cultural onslaught of the West and meet the needs of the youth.

He made the remarks at a meeting today with directors general of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance from various provinces of the country. He said: In order to carry out a cultural task successfully it is necessary to have an understanding of the current needs and belief in fundamentals of the faith. He added: Today the Western world sees the rich Islamic culture as a problem, and it is on such a basis that the West uses the weapons of technology and science to fight against the pure Islamic culture.

Larijani said: The two factors of faith and good deeds constitute a secret that can lead to success in the confrontation against the Western cultural onslaught.

* Demonstrations Against Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Fars

94LA0190A London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] Slogans against Hashemi-Rafsanjani have begun appearing on the walls, at least in some municipalities. The sources providing this report to KEYHAN believe that this slogan writing could not be taking place without the support or encouragement of some elements opposed to Rafsanjani. To support their view, they say that in demonstrations against high prices in front of the municipal buildings in some municipalities, including the municipalities of Fars, slogans against Rafsanjani could also be heard in the crowd.

The same sources speak of the likelihood of unrest in the province of Fars. Official sources also note that the tribal chiefs in Fars are seeking to create unrest and insecurity, directly confirming the unrest that is taking place.

Informed sources say that the important element in this unrest is the so-called wounded war veterans who were disabled in the war, whose remuneration is so small it is not enough to meet their minimum living expenses in face of the daily increasing inflation.

At a news conference, the governor of Hamadan said he considers it likely that the "wounded war veterans" will demonstrate against high prices. An unofficial source speaks of the likelihood of "the political organization of wounded war veterans to achieve their rights."

* Warning Issued to President on Ties With U.S.

94LA0190B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Jun 94 pp 1, 16

[Text] In recent news conferences by the president of the republic and the speaker of the Majles, answers have been given to questions about trade relations between Iran and America about which it appears necessary to issue warnings.

1. Is the principle of having trade relations with America authorized, or not? It appears that where parts and essential goods are involved, which are produced only in America, sound reason dictates that these needs be met through that channel. There is nothing new about this, there was a precedent for it during the war. Throughout the sacred defense parts for combat aircraft, antennas and satellite receptors, whose import was even prohibited in the view of the American officials, were imported from this country.

2. In his news conference yesterday the respected president of the republic said: "Iran has very extensive commercial ties to America and society's sensitivity about it is not correct."

In view of the fact that having commercial ties to America is an affront to our national zeal and revolutionary prestige, because political and economic relations are usually closely tied in the world's political practices, since this is a tool that can be used both ways, and most important of all, because Iran was under pressure from the beginning of the revolution by economic embargos and boycotts, can it be said that society's sensitivity towards commercial ties to America is not correct?

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi said himself in this news conference that "America does not have good intentions, it has not had an appropriate policy since the revolution, and the Americans want negotiations, but we do not think it is in our interest to begin negotiations."

In view of the fact that there are various markets in Asia and Europe and that America is not the only place to meet one's needs, it appears that there is no necessity to expand relations with America. America has always used political, economic, cultural and military resources against us. When the minister of economic and financial affairs and the chief of the Central Bank went to America to take part in the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF, the Americans treated these officials rudely and detained them longer than the legal limits. The official from the World Bank also clearly stated that despite the fact that you (Iran) are a shareholder in the World Bank and have the right to borrow money from it, because of American pressure the World Bank cannot grant the loans for which preparations have already been made!

Other insults and positions taken by America and its government officials towards Iran are no secret. The Americans will be satisfied with nothing less than the conditions they had in Iran during the time of the shah.

The Americans are still prohibiting the export of strategic goods and even sensitive computers to Iran. Under such conditions, what justification is there to bring Coca-Cola into the country, which is a symbol of consumer goods? For what reason is it popular ignorance to oppose the importation of consumer goods from America? At a time when there are foreign exchange problems in the country and even various beverages are produced and marketed in the country, why is the public's opposition to the importation of American Coca-Cola a question of popular ignorance?

3. When America becomes Iran's number-one trading partner, won't that undermine our revolutionary credibility and national zeal? When the greatest enmity to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran comes from America and when America is the leader of the imperialists, when America's aggressive and domineering tendencies are still evident, and when the actions of this nation's officials bespeak this truth everywhere in the world, why should this country be known as our number one trading partner?

Is it a nonexpert position to oppose importing consumer goods from a country that will be satisfied with nothing less than submission to its expansionist policies? In the same interview, the respected president of the republic said that "the Washington government promised that if we help with the release of the hostages in Lebanon, it would release our assets, but the American officials did not keep their word, and this broken promise made us lose confidence in them."

When Mr. Hashemi believes that we have "lost confidence" in America, it is questionable to speak of "extensive commercial ties." The people have a right to be sensitive about these ties.

4. With regard to America it must not be forgotten that His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, considered ties to America to be permissible only if this country abandons its imperialist behavior. Those who are fair and wise know, and it has been proved to all nations, that it is impossible for the American leaders to become human beings, and with every day that passes America's aggressive tendencies intensify. America still desires to interfere with the domestic and international relations of nations. Therefore, even if the "debts" are freed, as long as it is not proven to us that America has not given up its aggressive tendencies, and by all indications this is proven to be the case, there is no reason to expand commercial ties and to show "good will." Are the Americans willing, even now, to give us our military and defense parts? Certainly, in cases like this, couldn't the account be opened for trade relations on America's military equipment and forces?

The president of the republic must watch those "technocrats" who are enamored of the idea of buying American goods and not let them step over the bounds of necessity by increasing imports from America up to $800 million, as they did last year.

There is no doubt that Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani is completely familiar with American imperialism's tricks, plots, and behavior. He was and is one of the leaders in the struggle against imperialism. In his news conference he also emphasized that "we do not think negotiations are in our interest." The point that was raised in this regard was that in international practice, the development of economic relations can be translated into political relations. Therefore we must always be prepared to preserve our revolutionary prestige in the world, and the revolutionary spirit of the people.

* Letter: Wrong Not To Meet With U.S. Editors

94LA0186D Tehran SALAM in Persian 22 May 94 pp 3, 2

[Letter to SALAM editor by 'Ali Saremi of Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Honorable chief editor of SALAM.

Based on the reports of the domestic newspapers quoting the director general of the foreign press and media of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, the directors of the daily newspapers of Tehran refused to meet or even discuss and converse with the writers and some of the senior editors of the U.S. media and press.

Mr. Editor, of course I know nothing more than what the reports published, but the above-mentioned domestic press states that the refusal to face the writers of the U.S. media was made by all the directors of the domestic press. In this connection, as I am a regular reader of your distinguished newspaper and feel that you maintain a reasonable balance between being revolutionary and at the same time logical, even though some consider these two to be contradictory by nature, I decided to offer my perceptions in the form of questions that have come to mind in order to, God willing, receive logical and rational answers from you, because although you do not possess gold and silver and the top platforms of the press, you are concerned about all the strata and those who follow ideas and appeal to reason.

Mr. Editor in Chief:

Indeed, if you consider all the press and the owners of U.S. news agencies as affiliated with the U.S. Government and are apprehensive about facing them, then how do you explain the social and political realities of the past and the present?

Is it not true that although they act, no matter how badly and spitefully, totally in the interests their national strategy, at the same time they are obliged to maintain their affiliation with their own public opinion and even that of other countries to some extent, since otherwise they would have no base of support and would not be effective in their propaganda? And, can they, in the age of information and vast circulation of information, merely through their affiliation with their governments and isolated from their nations, continue their influence and existence?

How is it that we have always emphasized that we are not hostile to other nations and are merely unprepared to compromise with oppressive and domineering governments, bow to them, and submit to their illegitimate demands? Even though I admit that the American people and those like them are not unaffected by the propaganda and inculcation of their government and the agencies of power in that country, indeed, does the publication of millions of words, sentences, and articles throughout the world and the Western media and press exposing the crimes of the Serbs not indicate the important point that writers throughout the world have an independent identity with a purpose, no matter how limited and controlled? And do we not obtain much of our evidence of and views on the crimes of the Western centers of power or their governments from the same reporters?

Recently, the U.S. Congress ratified a proposal to revoke the arms embargo on oppressed Bosnia. Was this action

by the liars of the Congress not in response to the pressures of U.S. public opinion and the media? Even Alain Juppe, the French foreign minister, proclaimed this deceptive support of the Congress for the Muslims in Bosnia to be for U.S. domestic consumption, that is, an indication of the need for a popular gesture by the Congress.

And did the pressures of public opinion and the humanitarian societies and agencies that reflected the public opinion of the American people of the time not cause the downfall of the presidents and the many high-ranking officials regarding the continuation of the Vietnam war? And was it not the pressure of public opinion that ultimately caused a halt to the Vietnam war and the declaration of U.S. military defeat? And if we consider this defeat to be contrary to the material national interests of the United States, are we not justified in crediting it to the kind nature of the masses of the people? Was it not as a result of this lesson that the American statesmen stopped the media from direct presence in the oil war operations in the Persian Gulf? Another example: When we have ahead of us the mourning of the anniversary of the loss of our great Khomeyni or the celebration of the anniversary of the magnificent Islamic revolution, do we not invite all the Western and Eastern writers, media, and news agencies to take part in the ceremonies and report on them in order to make the world more aware of the greatness of the leadership and the Islamic revolution in Iran as well as the continuation of the people's love for these two and later quote the same sources in the press in order for them to verify the magnificence of the alertness and enthusiasm of our Muslim people?

And did the late Imam, in interviews from Paris with the same newspapers, not speak the truth to the world and strike down the shah with all the government and military support, then call on world public opinion to make a judgment?

Mr. Editor:

Are the experts and prominent intellectual and cultural figures of the great Islamic revolution, with its grand 1,400-year cultural and scientific support, unable to sit and talk with these representatives or those who were eager to hear first-hand the rationale and reasoning of the representatives of various ideas in Islamic Iran? And if we reject them, will the counterrevolutionaries not accept them, as usual?

Even if we consider them, as others do, to be spies, should the prominent religious and government people in Iran not directly present to them the ideas and wishes of this revolution and the great people? And if they intend to spy on our wishes and ideas, what better opportunity than this? As our access is limited to the media inside these countries, should we not take this opportunity and ask them how they can ignore the rights of Iran, Palestine, and Bosnia and still consider themselves defenders of the people's rights? In any case, I am certain that we are able to respond logically and assertively to others and defend our rights. Even if we are still unable to match them on the military, industrial, and technological fronts, on the front of ideas, thinking, culture, and reasoning, we are superior and proud, as we have been so far, and the reason is the alertness of the Islamic world and, of course, making use of the communication resources of the world. You can be sure that speaking to and discussing with the enemies and infidels is not only not a fault, it is a indication of power. When Imam Sadeq sat at discussions with the infidels and enemies and was not afraid of them, how is it that we have the highest figures of economic exchange with the United States but refuse cultural exchange, yet we consider ourselves the forerunners of culture and logic?

May you be successful and steadfast.

[Signed] 'Ali Saremi, Tehran

Editor: Due to the length of this letter, editorial comments will be deferred to tomorrow.

* Editorial on Meeting With U.S. Editors

94LA0186H Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 May 94 pp 3, 2

[Text] **Yesterday a letter was published in the column on "Letters to the Editor" entitled, "An Invitation to American Editors." Now you will read the editor's comments on that letter.**

Editorial:

The points that were raised in this letter are for the most part acceptable but do not warrant the conclusion, because they do not reflect the whole truth. For instance, if we want to speak of the independence of thought of the U.S. press, it is not enough to refer only to the issue of Vietnam, and for that matter only the final years of that tragedy. Rather, the early years of that war and the relative silence with regard to the crimes committed there must also be mentioned. Also, there has been evidence in the recent years of such dependence: the story of the downing of the passenger airplane, the issue of chemical bombs that ended in the Halabcheh tragedy, and other instances. Nevertheless, this does not mean they are totally dependent on the sources of power. If we reason in this way, almost all the presses in the world are dependent on their governments, and the Third World presses are even more dependent.

Also, it is unlikely that anyone would avoid discussion and conversation. Some time ago a group of Iranian journalists were invited by German officials; they went there and had various meetings and conversations with various groups. Obviously, in such conversations, the opinions of both sides usually come closer to one another, because some of the judgments of individuals, groups, and nations in regards to one another are due to preformed and cliche judgments that are modified as a result of face-to-face conversations. Hence, there is no

reason to avoid conversations with the citizens of other countries from the point of view of weakness in reasoning.

Given these explanations, it would appear that behind certain issues and beyond all apparent reasons that have been offered, there are other facts. In this case, the doubt and hesitation of some people must not be ignored. There are those who may think that now, for whatever reason, the issue of relations with the United States should not be raised. Some groups are looking for other solutions to this issue, and these invitations are the prelude or one of the stages in that solution. It is possible that as a preliminary step they are sending forth the press. Let us speak more frankly. Regardless of whether the improvement of relations with the United States is good or bad, and supposing that some consider it very necessary, still the correct ways must not be set aside and such methods resorted to. It is still more useful to say more frankly that before such meetings take place, the general policy of the country must be clarified as to whether to establish relations with the United States or whether the strategy of the regime is what the Imam and the grand leader have emphasized, that is, severance of relations with the United States. If the second is acceptable, normally, at least in practice and not just in conviction, everyone must submit to it. Hence, any action contrary to this policy must be avoided, and refusal to meet and talk with a group of U.S. media and press editors by the domestic press must not be considered as due to any apprehension about facing and talking with them, but as based on a conviction of what was expected of this meeting. At the present time, some of this group have conducted interviews with some of the high-ranking officials and no one criticizes it.

But the event that has occurred does not mean that none of the directors or chief editors of the domestic press ever agree to meet and speak to any American journalists or are afraid of such meetings. The point must be emphasized that no action must harm the general and strategic policy of the regime in this connection, that is, regarding relations with the United States.

Of course, this is the worst possible interpretation. On the other hand, it is possible that the above-mentioned incident is quite a normal action, devoid of any of the strategies mentioned above, and is totally of good intent, with the idea of enlightening the editors of the American press and subsequently the public opinion of the American people. Even if so, there are problems concerning the actions of the concerned officials.

If they are supposed to come and speak to the Iranian press editors, they should have spoken with the Iranian side before this and gotten the agreement of some of them (even a few) rather than unilaterally announcing the invitation and even the place of meeting. Obviously, they should have anticipated problems, such as the disagreement of the honorable director of ETTELA'AT, as this issue also exists for the Iranian press. When they go to other countries on the invitation of governments, they do not necessarily meet with the journalists of those countries, because, for their own particular reasons, they may refuse to meet.

Despite the above-mentioned possibilities, SALAM did not intend to condemn the proposed meeting. It was our belief that we did not have sufficient reason to accept the first expectation of this action, which was a prearranged plan to achieve particular goals. At the same time, we have not stopped others from accepting such a prospect and do not even consider the case closed. Hence, we saw it as a normal program. But because in this case as well we saw problems with the invitation, the intention was to mention it in another way to the related administration in the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and to say to them that this way of dealing with the press is the result of the general view of the ministry and other officials in regards to the position of the press, and if there are shortcomings and weaknesses in the Iranian press, they mainly stem from this same view. We must point out that if we do not react to what has been done now, it is because we think that the potential loss for the society and the country is greater than any potential gain. And the reason that we have spoken on this issue prior to the letter of this reader follows the analysis mentioned above. Also, regarding the issue of our having had the largest trade relations with the United States last year, and some people easily pass it off while they react so quickly to such an issue, we must say that this is one example of one kind of roof for two kinds of weather.

Tehran Objects to MKO's Radio Program in London

94LA0190C London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] The Islamic Republic has protested to the government of Britain because of the start of broadcasting by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization's [MKO] radio from London. The Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry has asked the government of Britain to stop the broadcasting of this program. Since last Friday the MKO radio program has replaced the Persian Radio Spectrum. To broadcast one hour of programming on this commercial transmitter, the MKO pays about 60,000 pounds. The Persian Spectrum program stopped broadcasting for four years due to the inability to pay the heavy rental fees for broadcasting one hour of programming.

* New Agreements on Transport With Turkey

94LA0188C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 15 Jun 94 p 10

[Text] **Ankara, 16 Khordad [6 June] (IRNA)—At the present time there are no problems concerning the transit of Iranian vehicles through Turkey to Europe, and Turkish trucks also transport goods via Iran to the Central Asian Republics.**

Seyyed Hasan Mir Mohammad 'Ali, the head of the Iran International Transport Syndicate, who had traveled to

Turkey for talks concerning issues of transportation between Iran and Turkey, made this announcement and said: Turkey has shown more flexibility than before concerning transportation between the two countries and has expressed its resolve to transport 70 percent of Iranian goods by Turkish trucks and 30 percent by Iranian trucks.

He added: Based on agreements, if they are signed by the government officials of both countries, Iranian vehicles will have the right to carry loads from all areas of Turkey headed for Iran. Both sides have also agreed that 50 percent of the export goods from each country to the other will be transported by the trucks of the exporting country.

Because of the insistence of Turkey on transporting all Iranian transit goods from the ports of that country by Turkish trucks and also decreasing Iranian imports, the transit goods of our country to Turkish ports have decreased significantly.

* Official: Illegal Afghan Refugees Must Leave

94LA0188B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 15 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] **Zahedan, 16 Khordad [6 June] (IRNA)—One million Afghan refugees residing in Iran have returned to their country with the cooperation of a trilateral committee of the Governments of Iran and Afghanistan and the UN High Commission on Refugee Affairs.**

Ahmad Hoseyni, the director general of the affairs of foreign nationals of the Ministry of Interior, made this announcement and added: According to a plan that has been prepared, another 300,000 Afghan refugees will leave Iran this year.

He added: That group of Afghan refugees residing in Iran who wish to participate in the reconstruction of their country may take all their belongings with them to Afghanistan.

Concerning the individuals whose stay in Iran is illegal, he said: According to the decision of the trilateral committee, these individuals must leave Iran from 10 Tir [1 July] at the determined time.

The director general of the affairs of foreign nationals of the Ministry of Interior also said: Iran will permit those Afghan refugees who hold legal identity cards to stay in our country as long as they wish.

* U.S. Said Blocking Turkmen Gas Export Via Iran

94LA0186E Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 May 94 p 1

[Text] Tehran, (IRNA)—By disrupting the relations between Iran and Turkmenistan, the United States is preventing the expansion of relations between the two countries.

An informed source said to our reporter in this connection: Using its influence in the oil and natural gas consortium of Turkmenistan, the United States is attempting to block the export of a natural gas pipeline through that country from Iran.

This source, which did not want to reveal its identity, said: The instructions of Niyazov, the president of Turkmenistan, concerning the building of a natural gas pipeline for that country to Europe through Iran and Turkey are not being carried out due to low-level disruptions by the United States.

The progress of the agreement between Iran and Turkmenistan to implement this project has so far faced numerous problems as the result of American influence.

The minister of oil and natural gas of Turkmenistan, who has close ties to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, has been mentioned as one of the opponents of the views of Mr. Niyazov.

Elements such as the minister of oil and natural gas of Turkmenistan are trying to get the natural gas pipeline of that country to cross the Republics of Azerbaijan and Georgia. According to this source, the Islamic Republic of Iran has used various channels to inform the president of the country of its displeasure concerning the disruptions of the United States in the development of relations between Iran and Turkmenistan.

* Natural Gas To Be Sent to Nakhchivan Region

94LA0188E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 15 Jun 94 p 11

[Text] **Tabriz, 21 Khordad [11 June] (IRNA)—Based on agreements signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the Republic of Azerbaijan, 1 billion cubic meters [m^3] of natural gas will be exported annually to the autonomous region of Nakhchivan.**

Golam Reza Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum, said in an interview with reporters in Tabriz: Documents concerning the building of a pipeline have been exchanged in the recent visit of the Iranian oil delegation to Baku.

He added: Based on agreements between the oil officials of the two countries, the decision has been made to build a pipeline with a capacity of 3 million m^3 of natural gas daily from Khoy to Jolfa and then connect it to the Nakhchivan region.

The minister of petroleum said: As soon as the officials of the Azerbaijan Republic give their general approval, work on this project will start.

Aqazadeh announced the price of exports of Iranian natural gas to Nakhchivan on the basis of international prices and added: The Republic of Azerbaijan may pay to Iran the value of the delivered natural gas in valid international currency or in the form of oil products.

He added: In the next two weeks also expert teams will visit Tehran from South Korea to conduct initial studies concerning the agreements signed between the oil officials of the two countries regarding the export of natural gas and other oil products to South Korea.

Referring to the expansive projects of the National Iranian Natural Gas Company to replace other oil products with natural gas, the minister of petroleum of the IRI said: Despite the increase in the replacement of products such as kerosene and diesel fuel with natural gas in the First Five-Year Plan, this important matter has not yet achieved the necessary growth. He said: The First Five-Year Plan projected the replacement of other products with natural gas fuel at 7.6 percent. This figure reached 21 percent, but simultaneously the use of oil products increased by more than 6 percent, and it is necessary to make a serious effort to reduce this growth.

The minister of petroleum said: During the Second Five-Year Plan for national economic development, the natural gas outreach network to 100 cities will reach operation. He predicted that by the end of the Second Plan, a significant number of cities in the cold regions of Eastern and Western Azerbaijan and Ardabil provinces will have natural gas.

* Skull Laceration Declared Illegal During 'Ashura

94LA0188A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] The ritual of lacerating the skull, which has been the height of mourning ceremonies every year during the month of Moharram, was banned this year according to a religious decree by 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic. Last year, preachers had asked from the pulpits that the people not lacerate their bare skulls and to take advantage of the religious reward of blood-letting by going to the blood organization and donating blood. However, apparently no one heeded this advice, and the laceration of the skull took place in some areas of Iran.

But this year, Khamene'i personally issued a religious decree announcing laceration of the skull to be counter to the mourning of Hoseyn. He said: "God does not condone the laceration of the skull."

On the other hand, the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance announced the prohibition of music during the mourning processions. While in the past musical instruments such as drums and kettle drums and cymbals were used in mourning ceremonies, recently modern sound equipment has replaced the old instruments, and chanters have been accompanied by music that does not resemble mourning music very much.

* Rate of Exchange of Major Foreign Currencies

94LA0186J Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 May 94 p 4

[Text] Economic Division. Yesterday, the price of the British pound and the German mark increased vis-a-vis the rial, and coins also continued to increase in value.

On the afternoon of Sunday (yesterday), the dollar, mark, and British pound were exchanged in open market transactions in Tehran at 2,770, 1,700, and 4,150 rials, respectively. In the period mentioned, the mark and the pound increased by 30 and 50 rials and the U.S. dollar did not change.

Every Spring of Freedom gold coin also was sold at 267,000 rials during the period mentioned, which was R3,000 more than Thursday.

The Central Bank also announced the rate of exchange of several major foreign currencies as follows yesterday, 01/03/1373 [22 May 1994].

Kind of Currency	Purchase in Rials	Sale in Rials
U.S. $	1,748	1,750
German mark	1,056	1,059
100 Japanese yen	1,674	1,678
British pound	2,634	2,640

Purchase in Rials	Sale in Rials
2,585	2,590
1,563	1,566
2,478	2,482
3,898	3,904

Pakistan

Spies Said To Penetrate Indian Defense Organization

BK2706132594 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 27 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Karachi—Pakistani secret service agents have penetrated into India's coveted Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and have procured blue prints of some important defence research oriented plans besides full details of an ongoing plan to manufacture a long range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), according to senior security officials.

Pakistani officials have learnt that India was facing difficulties in enhancing the range of its indigenously manufactured UAVs named Nishan and Falcon, which failed to achieve the desired range of 150-200 kms. Officials said that after failing in stealing the required technology from some western nations, the Indian authorities struck a deal with Israel for the purchase of Israeli made UAVs.

Israel now in an advance stage of defence and intelligence cooperation with India, wants to sell at least 16 UAVs, estimated cost US$ 2 billion, to India. Pakistani officials understand that the Indians were, however, interested in purchasing only two to three Israeli UAVs along with ground control stations. With this limited purchase the Indians want to learn about the Israeli technology and to use that in its own UAV development plan at the DRDO, officials informed.

A Pakistani security service has also obtained details of the Indian plans to procure extremely sophisticated Russian defence weapons through private parties who were hand in gloves with Research and Development Wing (RAW) in Delhi. Sources said that RAW representatives recently established contact with influential people in Poland and Hungry. From these two former Warsaw pact countries Indians were most interested in purchasing Ka-50 helicopters. The former Soviet Union hand restricted the supply of these gunship helicopters only to its most trusted allies in Eastern Europe.

In their bid to obtain sophisticated air defence equipment from the former Soviet Union's allies, Indians recently reported a major success by procuring the "Tunguska Air Defence System" through a clandestine operation. Although Indians required 80 to 100 guns for use in that system, but recently the Indian authorities requested Russia to sell only 12 pieces of that gun.

Pakistani officials understand that the Indians wanted to buy those 12 guns from Russia only to manufacture its own version of the guns using Russian technology. Russians themselves were surprised when the Indians did not ask for the transfer of technology while placing a request for three guns in Moscow early this year. The DRDO was already working on a blue print to manufacture an indigenous gun system for use with the "Tunguska Air Defence System".

At the official level also Indians were skillful in exploiting the increasingly weak economic condition in Russia, desperate to continue its normal military supplies to New Delhi. India is now getting a fresh batch of state-of-the-art Mig-29-M jet fighters from Russia. These fighter jets are equipped with latest avionic, including glass cockpit, two CRT multi-functional digital flight control systems and data linked air-to-surface missiles. The latest addition of a batch of 20 Mig-29s to the Indian Air force would increase its strength of the same fighter jets to 90.

Pakistani officials have also reported that Indian and Israeli security officials were shutting between New Delhi and Jerusalem to hammer out a concrete defence cooperation plan to expand intelligence sharing to a vast level covering Pakistan.

Alleged Spy Arrested, Linked With Indian Intelligence

BK2606095094 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 26 Jun 94 pp 1, 6

[Text] Rawalpindi—It has been learned from informed sources that a sensitive agency of the Pakistani Army has arrested in a dramatic fashion the owner of Raja's Clinic, which is located at (Kler Chowk) in Kahuta, on charges of espionage in connection with the Kahuta nuclear plant. At the time of arrest, the clinic owner was sending messages through a special transmitter. The accused is said to have links with the Indian intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing. According to the sources, the revelations made by the accused during preliminary investigations have shocked the country's law enforcement agencies. The accused was on the blacklist of the intelligence agencies for quite some time. He was arrested in a surprise raid the other day. Details of his revelations have yet to be revealed.

Government Orders Upgraded Security for U.S. Envoy

BK0807100194 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 94 p 12

[Text] Bahawalpur (PPI)—Federal government has directed all the four provincial governments that the security measures for the American ambassador must be upgraded whenever he travels outside the embassy whether in Islamabad or elsewhere.

In a circular issued to Home Secretaries of the four provinces and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Secretary of Federal Ministry of Interior has asked that efforts should also be made to verify authenticity of those reports sent to interior division.

Foreign Minister Predicts Treaty With Russia

BK0107135694 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Jul 94 pp 1,12

[Report by Asroosa Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, June 30: Pakistan would be proposing a comprehensive treaty and strategic cooperation with the Russian Federation during the forthcoming visit of Foreign Minister, Sardar Aseff Ahmad Ali, to Moscow beginning from July 3.

The Minister told The Muslim in an exclusive interview on Thursday [30 June] that the proposed treaty would take our bilateral relations to a new level of cooperation. It would include cooperation in a number of fields including defence, drug control, joint economic commission, bilateral trade and joint ventures.

He said he could take up for discussion with the Russian leaders the proposed railway link between CIS and

Pakistan. This important link would open up the Asian part of the Russian Federation to the Indian Ocean through Pakistan.

Pakistan, the Minister said, would extend an offer to Russia to cooperate in the implementation of this vital project. In return for the Russian cooperation, he said Pakistan would extend facilities to Russia for trade through this route. Russia would be allowed to use Pakistan's Karachi and Port Qasim Ports. There is also a proposal to develop Gwadar, at a later stage, as a dedicated port and harbour for CIS countries. This would be the most vital opening for Central Asian States/Russian Federation into the Indian Ocean.

The visit of the Foreign Minister assumes greater significance as it coincides with the visit to the Russian Federation by the Indian Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao.

Sardar Aseff's visit is also a preparatory exercise to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the Russian Federation. Benazir Bhutto has already accepted an invitation by Russian President, Boris Yeltsin to visit his country. According to the Foreign Minister, the visit is likely to take place in late September.

The Foreign Minister, who is visiting Russia at the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister, said the two sides would review bilateral relations, regional and international issues including security of South Asia, CIS, Bosnia and economic relations.

Mr Aseff said a correct environment had been created for developing friendly relations. This, he said, had been made possible by demonstrating a number of goodwill gesture by Pakistan enjoyed a geo-strategic position in the region and had a role to play in the world as a whole. Pakistan plays an important role for being member of ECO, OIC, SAARC, NAM and at the United Nations and is the largest Muslim nation in the world. There is also a greater understanding on the part of Russia that Pakistan is a neighbour of CIS of which Russia is also a member.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistan wanted to have good neighbourly relations with Russia as it was the biggest member of the CIS and a member of NATO [as published]. it has a potential to emerge once again a great nation in the region. Pakistan and Russia are cooperating in Bosnia and both are actively involved in seeking a just and equitable solution to the crisis.

Jatoi, NWFP Opposition Hold Talks on Government

BK0507121994 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Jul 94 p 16

[Text] Peshawar, July 4—In a significant development, former caretaker prime minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi dashed to Peshawar on Monday and held detailed discussions with ANP [Awami National Party] leader Khan Abdul Wali Khan.

The meeting according to well-informed sources, was held on the instance of former chief minister and PML [Pakistan Muslim League] provincial chief Mir Afzal Khan, who also joined the parleys for some time at the residence of ANP leader Haji Ghalam Ahmed Bilour.

The Bilour, later told newsmen that it was a 'chance meeting' over a cup of tea.

Insiders, however, maintained the meeting was serious and the leaders discussed issues in the light of ongoing Wattoo-Alaf 'tussle' in Punjab and the 'losing of ground' by PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government in Islamabad. They also discussed the possibilities of a national government in case an alternate arrangement was to be made to replace the PPP government, the sources disclosed.

The meeting, attended by Mr Wali Khan, Mir Afzal Khan, Begum Nasim Wali Khan, Iftikhar Husain Gilani and Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour also deliberated upon the armed force's role in the political situation obtaining in the country.

It was said that the ANP leaders had held some preliminary talks with Mir Afzal Khan before the Monday's meeting which was arranged after the leaders attended the funeral of Aslam Khattak's wife who had expired on Sunday.

Later, Mr Jatoi, accompanied by Iftikhar Husain Gilani, MNA [member of National Assembly] returned to Islamabad while Mr Wali Khan went back to his Wali Bagh Charsadda residence.

Mr Afzal Khan, whose bid to dissociate NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] chapter of PML (J) from the ruling PPP in May last was aborted, had remained in a low profile since then. He had, however, turned down all the offers of the PPP leaders for joining the Federal cabinet or accepting any other role in the government. His close aides have all along been talking of his frame of mind that he would not return to the PPP folds after severing his relations over the chairmanship of Senate.

Afghan Rocketi Warns More Kidnappings in Balochistan

BK0607103794 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Jul 94 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—The government is well prepared to arrest any attempt of abduction of senior government officials in Balochistan in the wake of renewed kidnapping threats by Mullah Rocketi, informed official sources told THE NEWS here on Tuesday.

Security had to be beefed up when government received abduction threats of its senior officials by the infamous

Afghan Commander recently. The sources said that the fresh threats were conveyed through some indirect channels.

It may be recalled that THE NEWS had carried an exclusive interview of Rocketi last month in which the Afghan commander had threatened to kidnap more Pakistan officials if his demands were not met.

Mullah Rocketi who has already abducted several Pakistani officials including a deputy commissioner, has threatened that now his target would either be a divisional commissioner or a commanding officer of the Frontier Corps, sources in the interior ministry say.

Following the threat, the federal government directed the Balochistan government to beef up its security and seal the border along the Rocketi's area in Afghanistan. All the senior civil and army officers have been asked to remain vigilant in view of the new development.

Demands of Mullah Abdul Salam Rocketi include the release of his brother, return of his weapons including three Stinger missiles and Rs [rupees] 6.7 million in cash. He also demands an apology from the government of Pakistan.

About Islamabad's efforts to secure the release of those kidnapped by Rocketi, the sources in the interior ministry said that the government was now using only the channel of foreign affairs ministry in this matter. All other channels have been closed.

The foreign ministry has not yet been able to do anything because of the weak government in Afghanistan.

Mullah Salam hails from the Shahjui area of Zabul province in southwestern Afghanistan. Shahjui is located on the main Kabul-Ghuzni-Kalat-Kandahar road and is not far from the border with Pakistan.

Government Inaction on Arab 'Marauders' Lamented

BK0207112594 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Arab Marauders in Tirah"]

[Text] FROM THE latest government reports it would appear that the situation in the tribal area of Tirah is alarming. Official quarters have led us to believe that our northwestern borders are far from safe. We had been led to believe that after the success of our Afghanistan policies our Northwest borders are now secure and that we now have a one front situation. But the fact remains that a few hundred armed Arab miscreants are moving about in our country in the guise of mujahideen, have been able to capture and hold a bit of Pakistani territory and remained strongly entrenched in what is called an inaccessible valley in Tirah. The activities of these Arabs give the lie to all government claims.

It is difficult to understand the location of the armed Arab gang of fanatic sectarians who pose an immediate threat to the Jamrud - Landi Kotal route so much so that all vehicular traffic has been stopped on this road and all trade in Landi Kotal has come to stand still. It has also been hard to believe the official version that these Arabs having been expelled from Pakistan, slipped into Afghanistan, then surreptitiously slipped back into Pakistan and that with the help of some local supporters established themselves in Pakistan and started their proselytizing work among the local people. We can understand a few individual slipping in and out of Pakistan, but does the government want us to believe that our border security arrangements in the tribal areas are so lax that a large group of armed men with mortars and other heavy weapons could freely enter Pakistan along with their families and belongings without our political agent and border security forces knowing anything about this sizeable intrusion? Something must he seriously wrong all along our western borders.

Till we have stable government in Afghanistan capable of maintaining peace in that country, we can neither afford to be complacent, nor can we cease to be vigilant. We cannot consider our borders secure till we have a government in Afghanistan with which we can deal. It is really frightening to realise that our borders have been left unguarded irrespective of the turmoil in Afghanistan and that our country is wide open to all kinds of marauders, miscreants, and enemy agents to operate freely or our territory.

Official sources inform us that the government will try to persuade these troublesome Arabs to leave Pakistan. When we know that these Arabs have murdered many Pakistani nationals and are likely to kill many more if they are not immediately disarmed, it seems that the government either does not have the will or it lacks the means to deal with these criminal aliens on our soil. Already we have the notorious Abdul Salam Rushuti entering Balochistan and taking away our officials as also Chinese engineers and keeping them hostage. We have been unable to get these abducted persons released. This is hardly the reward we should get for the help we gave our neighbours. Did we make sacrifices for the people of Afghanistan to have gangs of armed marauders ravaging the peaceful people of our land?

With the best will in the world for our Afghan brothers, we should secure our borders, protect our citizens and deny to all aliens the use of our territory for purposes that are contrary to our national interests. The government must take firm action against the Arab intruders and round them up using the full force at our command. A feeble or tardy response would be misunderstood as the beginning of the scary worst case scenario on the Afghan borders some of us have been dreading for sometime.

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